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BANKS OF THE DOURO.

VOL. III.

LANE, MINERVA-PRESS, LEADENHALL-STREET.

expectation passed, and at length a note was returned from her Ladyship, mentioning, that she was so extremely ill, that she was forbid by her physicians to see any person, or even to write; adding likewise, that if she continued in the same nervous state, she would not be permitted to read a letter. However, she desired Amelrosa not to make herself uneasy on account of these restrictions, as the first moment she found herself well enough, she would certainly send for her.

As she perused these lines, Amelrosa thought her heart would have broke at not being suffered to approach her ladyship, when thus alarmingly indisposed; for, who could be so proper to be with Lady Archdale as herself, who had resided with her from early infancy, and was attached by the warmest ties of gratitude. Though not apt to be suspicious, she could not avoid thinking, that keeping her thus at a distance, was a scheme of some of the mer-

mercenary persons about her, who were all eagerly waiting for a handsome legacy, to estrange her ladyship from her; under the apprehension that Lady Archdale would leave her a good fortune, that would be detrimental to their interest. Lord Oswell, she well knew was jealous of her, as she was a favorite of Julia's and her mother's; and she had been informed that Mr. Kennedy, Lady Archdale's lawyer, in whom she had great confidence, was his lordship's friend. Her ladyship was unacquainted with this circumstance, and Amelrosa could not suspect him of being her enemy, as he was always very kind and attentive.

His lordship had lately been very eager in his inquiries after Lady Archdale's health, which being visibly on the decline, gave him a prospect of having a considerable sum of money bequeathed to him, if he conducted himself with decency. Denham, she was convinced, would rejoice at

her banishment, who was most probably a principal occasion of its taking place, and always made his evil intentions wear the semblance of good-will towards her.—She reflected, that not a single individual had any reason to be jealous of her; for pure affection alone dictated her attentions to her benefactress, and the smallest pittance, sufficient to support her in the plainest manner, she would have deemed enough, and should her ladyship ever leave her more, she intended restoring it to her relations.

While her mind was thus occupied with these considerations, and she felt sad and dejected, Catherine Stanhope entered the room, and asked her if she would go with them to the opera, and to an assembly afterwards, with a large party who were coming to dinner.

Amelrosa, who was too unhappy to enjoy society, begged to be excused; saying, she

she had just heard of her friend's dangerous illness, therefore her mother and herself must forgive her for declining their invitation, as she would prefer dining alone.

Miss Stanhope replied, she was very sorry to lose the pleasure of her company, but would not wish to persuade her, as she hated constraint herself, and retired.

Not many minutes after, finding herself so depressed, that she felt quite miserable, she thought she would fetch a book that she had been reading the day before, and left in the small drawing-room. She went down as gently as she could, and opening the door softly, found the folding doors that led into the great drawing-room closed, to her extreme satisfaction; having intended to have retreated again, if they had been open, as some one or other, were generally with Mrs. Stanhope or Catherine, at that hour in the morning; and

she would not have wished to have been seen as her eyes were red with weeping.

While she was looking for the book, the sound of her own name pronounced in a disrespectful and scornful manner by Miss Stanhope, attracted her attention; and concluding she had unconsciously done something to offend her, which by knowing, she might be able to rectify, she could not resist attending to what passed, as she was engaged in searching for the book.

"I am really quite sick of the girl," continued Catherine. "She is such a complete mope, that it gives me the vapours to see her. She will never go any where; though to be sure, if she does, it is no acquisition; for its like carrying a log about for a companion. I am certain it must be hypocrisy, lamenting in that doleful way, for an ailing old woman, for Lady Archdale is no better."

"But

"But you forget, my dear," rejoined the mother, "that she is waiting for a legacy, and is quite right with such views to toad-eat her. All the world does so, when they expect to get any thing. That's true, to her face she acts properly in making the affectionate, and so forth; but behind her back, what signifies the weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. There is one motive alone that makes me wish her to stay, or I should most undoubtedly prevail with you, to invent some excuse to get rid of her."

Amelrosa had now found her book, and instantly retired as softly as possible, not feeling the least inclination to hear any more; as the little she had heard, was sufficient to convince her, from the contemptuous terms in which they had spoken, that their kindness to herself was assumed, and experienced the utmost contempt for them. Had not other cases of more importance engaged her mind, she would

have been extremely unhappy at being deceived by those whom she thought had some friendship for her, and had shewn her kindness; but at present, she only regretted not having it in her power to converse with Lady Archdale, as she intended to gain her permission to change her residence, under pretence, that the constant gaiety that reigned at Mrs. Stanhope's was unpleasant to her. She was too good-natured to wish to lower them in her ladyship's opinion, and only proposed to quit them, that they might not at any time be at a loss for an excuse to get rid of her, disguising her knowledge of the unkind expressions they used in speaking of her; though her ingenuous mind revolted at the idea of wearing the semblance of friendship, towards those for whom she did not feel any, since she had discovered they were so deceptious.

A fortnight was nearly elapsed unvaried by any new or striking event, when Amelrosa,

rosa, who had not before been sufficiently in spirits to visit Minette, repaired alone and on foot in the evening, to her habitation. The door was opened by the fat woman, and informing her with some confusion, that her friends did not take the lodgings, because they could not have the first floor immediately. She then asked for Mrs. Belmont.—The fat woman eagerly replied—

" Lauk mem, only to think, Mrs. Belmont was brought to-bed the very night after you had seen her, and a fine bouncing boy it is, sure enough; and mother and child are both as well as can be expected. His papa ha'n't seen it yet, for he went into the country that very day, and called soon after you, mem. I think the babe's the very moral of him; he can't deny him; and I must say this for Mr. Belmont, that he is as fine a man as ever stepped in shoe leather."

Tired of her gossip, Amelrosa put a stop to it, by requesting she would go and ask the lady, if she might be admitted to see her, without fluttering her spirits, and the fat woman returning directly, shewed her up.

Minette held out her emaciated hand, when she approached the bed-side, saying, as she shook it in a friendly manner, "I am now quite reconciled to the idea of seeing you, convinced of your compassionate goodness, and when I am sufficiently recovered and have attained some strength of mind, shall relate to you every thing that has befallen me; while I thank heaven for having sent me such a consoling friend."

Amelrosa's obliging answer to this speech, appeared to give her pleasure, and a faint smile irradiated her countenance. Minette then shewed her the infant, which was a very fine babe; but in its minute features she thought (unlike the fat woman) it

it would be difficult to trace a likeness to any person. The remainder of the evening, Amelrosa continued with her, and did every thing in her power to amuse, without fatiguing her; reading the greater part of the time, with the hope that it would divert her from yielding to melancholy reflections, which evidently seemed to oppress her mind, and whenever she looked at her infant the tears would bathe her pallid cheeks.

When Amelrosa went into the next room to fetch something, the nurse addressed her, and said, "I wish Miss, you would persuade my lady, not to give way to low spirits.—She is a nice good lady, and it is a sweet fine baby; but if she frets so much, she will injure herself and the baby too."

In consequence of hearing this, Amelrosa gently hinted to Minette, that for the sake of her child, she should admit of

consolation, and gained a promise from her, that in consideration of her infant, for whom she appeared to feel all a mother's fondness, she should endeavor to conquer her grief. Amelrosa now left her more tranquil and comforted, and soothed by her visit; entreating her with her last words, not to suffer many days to elapse before she came to see her again. This she readily promised, and returned to Piccadilly in a hackney coach.

The following day she received the subsequent short letter from Lady Archdale, who had not written to her for nearly three weeks, merely sending verbal messages.

My dear Amelrosa,

"I am much the same as yesterday, and have not closed my eyes to-night. Many thanks for your enquiries: but I beg you not to think of me, as it only adds to my low spirits, to find that I distress those hearts, that I wish to enjoy more peace and comfort

comfort than I believe, will ever be felt by me. Weak and unable as I am, I write to assure you of my affections, and that I shall send the chariot to bring you here to-morrow about three o'clock. I am as ill and miserable as I can be, but with great regard,

" Your affectionate

" F. ARCHDALE."

This letter, concise as it was, agonized Amelrosa, and she involuntarily exclaimed, while the bitter drops of sorrow swam in her dark blue eyes. " Alas! my friend, my benefactress, are you indeed so ill, and the daughter of your adoption not suffered to be with you? Cruel beings, to estrange my mother from me!" for she had been accustomed to call Lady Archdale by the endearing name of parent; and her ladyship generally styled her by the flattering appellation of daughter. The perturbation of her mind prevented her from taking any rest,

rest, and she counted the hours the next day till the carriage came for her.

When she reached Devonshire-place, and entered the house, all the servants she observed, wore the most solemn air, walking about on tip-toe, and the universal gloom made her shudder, as Denham in silence conducted her to the chamber where Lady Archdale reposed on the bed; for she could not now get up.

"Is it you, my child?" murmured her ladyship, in a feeble voice; "come and embrace me."

Amelrosa advanced with a bursting heart, but whose feelings she struggled to repress, not to alarm her, and beheld the most striking alteration in her person for the worse. She talked wildly and incoherently; her countenance and manners were entirely altered, except in the regard she expressed for Amelrosa, and affliction at

at being separated from her; to which she was obliged to yield in compliance with the desire of her physician and friends. Even the last interview they had endeavored to prevail with her to avoid; but their united arguments could not persuade her to act otherwise; being determined to risk any thing, rather than deprive herself of the gratification of seeing her, especially as she was going to take a long journey.

"Is it possible, my dear madam, in your delicate state of health."

"'Tis but too true; however, my love, though I am rather averse to this expedient; but the advice I receive, is to visit my country seat in Wiltshire, as the air, it is said, will be very beneficial to me. I am to have a bed made in my carriage and to travel so slowly, that it cannot hur me. If I get better, which I very muc doubt, for the world seems to fade fro me, and I hope soon to join my belov children, I will most certainly take you

live with me; nor shall any persuasions prevent it; but as I am now situated, I think it would be wrong to confine you to a sick room, when you are only lately recovered from indisposition yourself: yet, should you ever reside with me again, you shall not quit me, till you are united to your Montague."

For several hours her ladyship retained Amelrosa, who perceiving she was faint and exhausted with talking for such a length of time, offered to take her leave; but frequently when she attempted it, and Lady Archdale had given her consent, she would call her back again, make her sit down, kiss her, and look wistfully at her, and with the utmost reluctance, at last permitted her to go; saying, she should send for her again before she left London.

Had Amelrosa's affection admitted of encrease, this interview would have augmented it; as her ladyship's continued affection

fection for her was evident, though her long estrangement had given the people near her an opportunity of gaining such an influence, that they continually deceived and practised on the excellence of her heart, to wean her from having Amelrosa with her, by making her ladyship believe, it was not conducive to the young lady's happiness, and afterwards that it would be detrimental to her health. Lady Archdale appeared so very ill, that she did not like then to trouble her with her wish to quit the Stanhopes'; but when she saw her again, if she was better, intended mentioning the circumstance.

Fortunately, however, not long after their interview, Amelrosa accidentally met a lady, whom she had often seen at the house of her benefactress, and received from her the painful information, that her ladyship had left town the preceding day, and apparently felt a great repugnance at leaving it. The lady added, that she understood

derstood Lady Archdale had wept bitterly on making her will, which she was advised to do by Mr. Kennedy. This intelligence unutterably affected her, having indulged the hope that she should once more have seen her esteemed friend, before she began her journey, as she had promised her that happiness.

To banish, if possible, sensations most uneasy, that notwithstanding every effort pervaded her mind, she tied on her hat and cloak, and went to visit Minette. She found her sitting in a great arm chair, with her infant reposing on her bosom, and the semblance of melancholy and despair, though pathetically lovely. A French cap of the finest point lace, shaded her interesting countenance, whose transparent fairness was heightened by a hectic bloom. A ruddy strong-built country looking woman was with her, and she informed Amelrosa that this person was a wet nurse that she had hired for her child, finding herself too

too weak to suckle it. With compassion she perceived, that it would be an advantage to the poor babe, as its mother had a very alarming cough and consumptive symptoms.

They had been together about a quarter of an hour, when Minette desired the nurse to go into the next room with the child, and addressing Amelrosa with a pensive air, said, "I consider it as a duty incumbent on me, after your benevolent and amiable attention, to relate the circumstances that have occasioned me to be discovered by you in such a suspicious situation. Not that I mean to exculpate myself; for acute are my pangs, when I know that is impossible. I have indeed been very weak, and erred so considerably, that my peace of mind is for ever destroyed; yet, I wish to convince you, I have rather been unfortunate and thoughtless, than intentionally imprudent."

Though

Though her curiosity was much excited, Amelrosa would not yield to it, and requested Minette earnestly not to communicate any thing relating to herself, that would give her pain, as it would afflict her to witness her uneasiness. Minette could not, however, be persuaded to relinquish her intention, and with a deep sigh, proceeded thus :—

" Soon after our arrival in England, my father formed an acquaintance with a gentleman of family, fashion, and extensive fortune, whom in a luckless hour he introduced to his daughters. He was calculated to please our sex, and the deference he particularly evinced to me, early prepossessed me in his favor. His visits were frequent, and generally contrived to take place when the Marquis and Felicité were out, or engaged up stairs ; which intelligence I have since learned, he contrived to gain, by bribing our female English servant.

" With

" With professions of love the most honorable, he usually entertained me, and when I desired he would speak to my father on the subject, he declined it, with the excuse, that if he communicated his intentions, they would soon be publicly known and reach the ears of one of his relations, that he expected would leave him soon, as he was very old, a fine estate and a large sum of money; but if he disobliged him by marrying a Roman Catholic, being much prejudiced against that religion, he would bequeath his property to another relative, and he did not wish to offend him, as he was anxious for the estate.

" Infatuated with my love, and pleased with the idea of marrying a man who might ultimately be of service to my dear father and sister, I suffered myself to be blindly influenced by him, from having thought highly of the goodness of his heart; and in fact, except with regard to women, he possesses many virtues.

" This

"This was my situation, when nearly ten months since, the Marquis and Felicité went to visit a nobleman that had likewise emigrated from France with his lady, who was Felicité's god-mother; and having been informed she was dangerously ill, my father and sister set off to visit her at a country seat in Somersetshire, where they resided; which was lent them for their residence, by an English gentleman their friend, to whom it belonged. I was left in town to guard our little property, and to superintend our family affairs; more particularly, as we were in lodgings, and did not like to leave them to the sole protection of our English servant.

"My governess and her husband had quitted us some time, the Marquis having placed them in a perfumer's shop, which he considered would be a more comfortable subsistence for them, than residing with us, as we could not otherwise have provided for them so liberally as they deserved;

served; yet with the utmost reluctance they parted from us.

"The following evening after their departure, my lover came to me, and mentioning that a most amusing play was to be acted that evening, persuaded me, after a great deal of hesitation, to accompany him to it; for I was indeed very reluctant to go out any where in the absence of my father, who would be displeased if he knew it. But how difficult it is to resist the importunities of a person we love. The only defence, I believe, is to avoid placing yourself in such situations as expose you to solicitation; and fortunate would it have been for me, if I had then reflected in this manner, being unhappily of a disposition easily persuaded to compliance with any plan, by those I esteemed: a facility that has been of fatal consequence to me.

"Contrary, therefore, to the conduct I should have pursued, I went to the theatre;

atre; but hardly was the second act concluded, before an alarm of fire was spread throughout the house; and terrified at the circumstance, I hastily requested my companion, whom in future, I shall style Mr. Belmont, to assist me to quit the play-house as soon as possible. He endeavored to compose my fears, while he complied with my entreaties; but when we reached the lobby, it was instantly announced that some pickpockets had cried out fire, to occasion a crowd, that they might with ease commit their depredations, and that there was no other danger but from them.

"At this intelligence, we would have returned, but the concourse of people were so great, that it was impossible; the chief part crouding back to the boxes, which made it more easier to go forwards; for in attempting to return, the pressure of the people was so great, that I was nearly fainting. Mr. Belmont perceived this, and supported me as well as he was able, till

we

we got out of the theatre. It rained very hard, and feeling myself extremely ill and not a coach to be procured, he told me he was acquainted with a lady (whose name I forget) that lived very near, and if I approved it, would receive me with pleasure. I could wait there, he said, till quite recovered, and he had procured me a carriage.

"This proposal I accepted without the least reflection, and in a few minutes we arrived at a spacious house, though in what street it was situated, I am ignorant. We were shewn into an elegant drawing-room, when the spirits I had exerted to support myself, gave way, and I sunk quite senseless in a chair. Every exertion was practised to recover me, and I remember they gave me wine to drink, which not being accustomed to, made me quite giddy and my senses totally confused. The first question I asked, when I felt a little recovered, was to see the lady of the house, to

apologize for the trouble I had occasioned; but the women servants who attended me during my fainting, replied, that she was from home, and that Mr. Belmont was her intimate friend, and might command every thing in her house; and with these words and a respectful curtsey, they left me alone with him.

"They were no sooner gone, than I urged him to procure me a coach to go instantly home; but with the most insinuating persuasive language, he contrived to prolong the time; and my judgment, clouded by the indisposition I had sustained, and the wine I had drank, which obscured my intellects, I was prevailed on to remain till I had sacrificed my peace of mind, by too firm a confidence in my seducer, and reliance on his honor and the promises he made me; added to his assertions, that I could not have the least regard for him, if I hesitated to place myself entirely in his power.

"The

"The misery that overwhelmed me when I returned home, was so acute, that I would not wish the greatest enemy to experience it. The light of day was hateful to me, and seemed to reproach my failing; and the sight of my father and the innocent Felicité, who returned full of life and spirits, (as her friend was better) unconscious of her sister's weakness, was a dagger to my heart.

"Mr. Belmont continued occasionally to visit at the house, for fear of suspicion; but his attentions to me were less marked, and he never hinted at making reparation for his conduct by marriage, though I solicited him in frequent letters, to perform his repeated promise to that effect; informing him, at the same time, I feared my disgrace could not long be concealed, as it would be unfortunately disclosed by an alteration in my person. The consequence I represented, of its reaching my father's ears, would cause the death of the Mar-

quis or himself, and inevitably destroy my existence and the unborn infant's, as I could not survive the shock of either of them being deprived of life, and myself covered with shame the wretched cause.

" In reply, Mr. Belmont said, that peculiar circumstances prevented his marrying for some years, and the best method I could pursue, was to quit my father's habitation as soon as I was apprehensive of discovery, and he would take lodgings for me in a retired situation, where I might depend on receiving all the tenderness of the fondest husband.

Distracted as this answer made me, I was obliged, however, to yield to the dreadful necessity; and from our servant being in the secret, to whom I pretended I was privately married to Mr. Belmont, and the Marquis and Felicité being wholly unsuspicious, I continued, as I am fortunately of a very slender form, to remain at home till

till within two months of my confinement; as I wished to delay, as long as I could, giving pain to my father and sister. But, alas! my grief received increasing aggravation, on learning that a strong attachment to another lady, had superseded his regard for me, and deprived him of inclination to perform his engagement; his new passion occupying his whole soul.

"I have since too fatally been informed, that although he possesses many virtues, and never violates his promise, and is strict in affairs of honor with his male friends, his inconstancy and partiality for women, inclines him often to break through all bonds with them, and to succeed in his improper designs, act most dishonorably; and he has since confessed to me, that the house to which he took me after the play, was a house of ill fame.

"When the period arrived, that I was to quit my father's protection, with a

trembling hand I wrote a few lines to him, saying, that a circumstance too painful for me to explain, forced me to leave him; and I implored, as he valued his own happiness, that he would make no enquiries after me, with a great many protestations of sorrow at giving him pain, which I cannot at present repeat, I concluded.

"I requested Felicité, in a short letter which I added likewise to her, to exert herself, by the affection she had borne me, to console her poor father, and not to hate or forget her unhappy sister.

"Having delivered these letters to the English maid, to place one on the breakfast table, and the other on Felicité's toilet as soon as I was gone, I arose by day-break, when my sister, who sleeps sound, was fast asleep; and creeping gently down stairs, was let out by the servant, who was waiting for me, and walked to the corner of the street, where Mr. Belmont expected

me

me in a hackney coach, by appointment; and, jumping out; handed me in, and we drove directly to the lodging.

"Here I have, from that instant, successfully remained unknown; but miserably have my hours passed, abandoned to melancholy, neither seeing or conversing with a single being but the woman of the house and the nurses, except yourself and Mr. Belmont, who comes sometimes, but very rarely. His attentions to me are polite and delicate, and he is prodigal of expence on my account; yet I plainly perceive that his regard is entirely alienated, and the short period he stays is gloomy and abstracted. He tells me, that something yearly has been settled by him on myself and the child; and though most deeply, I feel his breach of honor, in not marrying me, I have ceased to importune him on the subject; and as soon as I have strength, which I hope will be in a week or ten days, shall retire into the country, and there bury

my sorrow and shame in oblivion, far from every curious eye."

Painful recollections and remorse seemed now to overpower her, and while Amelrosa made successful efforts at consoling her, she expressed at the same time, her grateful acknowledgments for the confidence she had reposed, and the concern she really felt for her misfortunes. She could not avoid uttering her detestation of Mr. Belmont's conduct, and by her friendly kindness and sympathetic interest she took in her woes, succeeded in reconciling the fair and hapless Minette to herself; who already felt the delightful consolation of having imparted her afflictions to a compassionate heart, and parted from her with evident sorrow.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

What sorrow was, thou bad'st her know,
And from her own she learn'd to melt at others woe.
Gray.

AMELROSA on her return home, found two letters which came in her absence; one from Emmeline Glenholme, and the other from the Baron. Emmeline's informed her of her safe arrival at Sir Robert's, and that the first moment she could spare from attending on him, was dedicated to gratitude and friendship. The last sentiment, she flattered herself and hoped, was reciprocal; and the former she intended proving to her that she felt; cherishing the hope, that at her uncle's, or

some other place, she should have an opportunity of rendering her attentions similar to those she had received from her in London. Sir Robert, she said, was getting better, and asked her many questions relating to the young lady, with whom she seemed so much pleased; "And judge," Emmeline added, "if my heart was not delighted to describe you such as I have known and seen you." After many other kind expressions, and giving an account of her journey, she finished her welcome epistle; and Amelrosa, sensibly gratified by her partial style of writing, and the favorable description she gave of her to Sir Robert, read her letter over several times, and then began to peruse the Baron's.

It did not contain any thing particularly interesting, except the regard he expressed; and that since his dear and gentle friend had permitted him to recal himself to her remembrance, he could not resist painting his regret at being distant from her.

Know

"Know then, Belle Amelrosa," he continued, "that I resemble the pilgrims of Mecca, who turn their eyes towards that city, after having quitted it; since I turn mine towards the spot which you inhabit, fairest of women. My heart, penetrated with your candour, the impression of your grateful disposition, and all the charms of your mind and character, experiences the utmost grief at not being empowered to be near you; though such a situation would be fraught with danger. This attachment that pervades my breast, is only equalled by the pain I feel at being far from you; but, if cruel duty banishes me your presence, it can never efface from my soul, the sentiments I feel for a female, that acts and speaks as you do; who are devoid of affectation and coquetry, the distinguishing proof of vain and little minds, and can reject without offending, nor ever encourage to deceive. To the latest moment of my existence, I shall be interested in your welfare; in every thing that relates to you;

and think with pleasure, intermingled with sorrow, on the delicious moments I have passed in your charming society; which, had I any hope of enjoying again, I should previously anticipate in idea."

With much more in the same strain his letter was filled, though some parts of it were very lively, and imparted pleasure to Almerosa, (who judged from it, that he was in good health and spirits) as she had a sincere friendship for him, grounded on esteem for his character, and the service he had rendered her.

She had just finished reading his letter, when somebody tapped at the door of the chamber, and Mrs. Stanhope and her daughter entered; the former with a countenance exceedingly acid, and the latter with an insolent contemptuous look. This extraordinary expression directed to her, rather surprised Amelrosa; but unconscious of having done any thing to offend them,

them, she did not feel alarmed, till Mrs. Stanhope, proudly erecting her head, thus addressed her :—

" Placed under my protection by my respectable friend, Lady Archdale, I am of opinion I should be deficient in friendship for her, did I not point out the extreme impropriety of your conduct, in going out continually, without informing any person where you visit, stranger as you are in this town; and after meeting with such an iusult as you did in the streets, to be unattended by a footman or any one else to take care of you. I have likewise been informed, that you are often seen driving about in blackguard hackney coaches, a mode of conducting yourself, altogether highly improper in a girl of any fashion. However, if you can explain this ambiguous behaviour to my satisfaction, I will take no further notice of it ; but if that is impossible, I must inform Lady Archdale of the circumstance, and desire she will remove

remove you elsewhere, as it may be exceedingly injurious to the future establishment of Miss Catherine Stanhope in life, to be seen in public with a female of doubtful character."

This unexpected attack, which she was totally unprepared to receive, quite overcame her with confusion, as she could not alledge any thing to justify herself, without betraying Minette's secret. All, therefore, that she could say in her defence was, a fervent protestation of being perfectly innocent of having committed the least impropriety; feeling serious concern at the wrong construction placed on her actions, and Mrs. Stanhope's judging so unfavorably of her, as to suppose her capable of acting erroneously. To reveal the object of her unknown visit, Amelrosa continued, she did not think herself authorised, as circumstances that were the cause and not relating to herself, she was not at liberty to communicate.

This

This retort seemed to irritate Mrs. Stanhope extremely. Catherine pouted her lip, and her mother swam majestically out of the room; saying, as she looked superciliously at Amelrosa, that they must soon part then, as she wished for no mysterious people under her roof.

At these words, our heroine followed her quickly, and said, "Do not be uneasy, madam, I will write immediately to Lady Archdale, to desire I may be removed as early as possible. To be an intruder any where, is foreign to my inclinations."

"Oh, very well;" rejoined Mrs. Stanhope, with a sneer; "our letters will reach her at the same time;" and turning on her heel, descended the stairs, while her daughter affectedly tittered.

The spirit that sustained her in their presence, now gave way, and a burst of tears relieved her oppressed heart. At the risk of displeasing her benefactress, she would

would have quitted the house directly, as she could afterwards have explained the reason; and in her liberal mind, it would have been sufficient to extenuate her from blame, had she to support herself and had money sufficient, but a few guineas, unluckily, were all she possessed; and the greater part of this small sum she owed for washing.

Lady Archdale had omitted to give her some money before she left town, and she declined to ask for any, as her ladyship had hitherto supplied her without being reminded of it; and she could account for her present neglect, by supposing, that her afflicting indisposition had occasioned it to escape her memory. She sat down immediately to write to Lady Archdale, a description of what had passed, being necessitated in her own justification; and requested her ladyship would send her a small order on her banker, and inform her likewise, where she would advise her to go

go, as she could not think, after such an insult, of remaining at Mrs. Stanhope's.

Her spirits were so much weakened from the unmerited ill treatment she had encountered, and the piercing reflections that her unprotected state suggested, from the uncertain tenure of Lady Archdale's life, that for several days, she neither went out, or would see any person. Her solitary meals she partook of in the apartment next the eating-room, and the remainder of the time continued in her own chamber, during which period she was unmolested by the Stanhopes'. On the fourth day, however, she determined again to visit Minette, whom she longed to see, (as she would soon quit town) though she had unfortunately been the cause of rendering her an object of suspicion.

Minette was not up when she arrived, having passed a very indifferent night, from the child being indisposed; and desired

sired Amelrosa to go into the sitting room and write a note for her to the doctor, that he might come and look at the infant. With pleasure she consented, and had that instant taken the pen in her hand to write, when the footstep of a man on the stairs, made her lay it down again, concluding it was the doctor, Minette having said he might probably call.

A moment ended her suspense; the door opened, and Lord Conrade stood before her. Their surprise was mutual, but his seemed mingled with alarm and confusion; however, he approached, and incoherently expressed the pleasure he felt at beholding her, saying, he had almost every day attempted to see her at Mrs. Stanhope's, but could never be admitted to that happiness; which induced him to imagine, he had unknowlingly displeased her; adding, he had often questioned Miss Stanhope on the subject, but could never gain any satisfactory reply; yet her manner inclined him to believe that what he feared was true.

While

While Amelrosa assured him he was mistaken in his conjectures, never having done any thing to offend her, she was inwardly musing on what could occasion his appearance at Minette's lodgings, as she had informed her, she saw no other beings than Mr. Belmont and herself. A sudden suspicion, for the first time, glanced across her mind; Lord Conrade and Mr. Belmont were, perhaps, the same person. The partiality Minette evinced for him, when she first saw them together at the Marquis de Luneville's, his present agitation and unexpected appearance, all seemed to confirm this suggestion.

These ideas were occupying her thoughts, when Lord Conrade, who had walked to the window with a perturbed air, again drew near, and to her utter consternation, exclaimed with wild distraction in his looks, while he earnestly regarded her, "You are here, and all is therefore discovered to you; 'tis in vain now to attempt

tempt at disguising any thing from you. That base woman has betrayed me, though she knows I would rather have had a sword plunged into my heart, than you, who are so good, so pure, and that from the first moment I saw you, I adored, should have been made acquainted with my crime. Never will I behold her more. Curses—

"Forbear, my lord," interrupted Amelrosa, with sweet and gentle dignity, that commanded his attention, while he gazed with increasing admiration. The energy with which she spoke, caused a pale blush to suffuse her fair and lovely face, and her azure tinted eyes shone with bright and mellowed lustre, as with winning and melodious accents she continued:—"Add not to your guilt, by loading with execrations, the gentle victim of your perfidy. Chance alone discovered to me her retreat, and so studiously has she avoided infusing into my mind, the least suspicion of who was her seducer, that till this moment, the truth

truth never flashed on me; and I am convinced this accidental interview will overwhelm her with the deepest affliction."

"I must believe it is as you represent; for truth alone, flows from those lovely lips," replied his lordship, somewhat calmed, "and shall not regret the occasion of meeting you here, if it has not lessencd me in your esteem," he rejoined, lowering his voice, "since it has given me an opportunity of declaring the fervent and honorable passion I entertain for you; which I have long wished to disclose, and flattered myself, I hope not vainly, you would receive in a favorable manner; as surely you will not be so severe as not to make some excuse for the indiscretions of youth."

"I am shocked beyond the power of expression," returned Amelrosa, with horror depicted in her countenance. "No, even if I loved you with greater fondness than

than ever woman did, instead of having my affections engaged, as they are to another, who possesses my tenderest regard, I should detest myself, if I could listen one moment, to a man who has ruined the happiness of a most amiable girl, dishonored a noble family, whose affecting misfortunes, ought to have protected her from your libertine designs; and will, probably, by this additional insult, committed almost in her presence, hurry her to a premature grave; as the critical situation of her health must render any violent emotion fatal to her delicate frame."

Scarcely had she uttered these words, which seemed to make a deep impression on Lord Conrade, by the convulsive agony that shook his frame, and denoted the tormenting sensations which laboured in his breast; when a loud exclamation in the adjacent room, made her conclude, that Minette, hearing what had passed, was taken ill, and she hastily arose to fly to her

her assistance. The kindness of her intentions were not, however, seconded by her strength. Her mind and body had been weakened by the affliction she had sustained for some days past, and the benevolence of her disposition, united with the most exquisite sensibility, caused her to feel so acutely for the unhappy Minette, whose pangs she thought must be dreadful, during the preceding scene with Lord Conrade; as the want of tenderness he displayed, must aggravate her sufferings; that when she attempted to proceed to her, she feebly tottered, her legs trembled under her, and would have fallen to the floor, had not his lordship caught her in his arms.

She struggled to free herself from him, and Lord Conrade assisted to convey her to a chair, but before they could reach it, exhausted with the effect, she sunk quite lifeless on his shoulder. A decanter of water stood on a table in the apartment, which he contrived to reach with one arm, while

while with the other he supported her, not daring to call for assistance; dreading if the door should open, to behold Minette. He sprinkled her with the water, and she began to revive, when a loud knocking was heard at the door, quick and hurried steps, with the sound of different voices followed, and immediately after, Montague Glenholme burst into the room and beheld, Oh killing sight! the lovely mistress of his soul, reclining in Lord Conrade's arms. The destruction of all his fair hopes of happiness, now seemed decisive, not having the least idea of her being ill; but seeing her in that position, the most racking pangs of jealousy pervaded his mind, and clouded his reason.

Over his regimentals he wore a military great coat; his fine hair disordered, as if just arrived from a long and fatiguing journey; a paleness the most livid, supplied the place of the healthy hue that always adorned his manly face; and the frantic fire

fire that darted in his eyes, making that paleness more terrible, too plainly evinced the excess of misery that the baleful scene before him had planted in his faithful heart. Had the griping fangs of a scorpion been planted there, he would have felt less pain. Stunned with the loss of his promised felicity, he remained fixedly gazing at her for some minutes.

The noise of his entrance startled her, and beginning to recover, she raised herself up, and opening her beautiful expressive eyes, encountered the form of him she loved, though so much altered with the emotion he felt, as scarcely to be recognized; for Glenholme indeed possessed

——————————— a form
Of majesty with youthful beauty grac'd.
He was the soldier's idol; such a spirit
Beam'd from his eyes, his presence, like the sun,
Gladden'd beholders hearts.

Cumberland.

The first glance of his well known coun-

tenance, acted as a restorative, and springing from Lord Conrade, she rushed into his arms. The impetuosity of her feelings, that made her thus forgetful of her indisposition, fly to his embrace, was frightfully contrasted by the behaviour of Glenholme. He shrunk from her, and when, with innocent joy and sweetness beaming in her beauteous face, she began speaking to him with all the eagerness of delight, that an affectionate heart feels at beholding a long absent friend, (unheeding his repulsive air) he flung her from him with such violence and rage, that her fragile frame could not sustain the shock, and before Lord Conrade could assist her, she fell to the ground, her forehead striking against the sharp edge of a chair, received an alarming blow, which grazed the skin and swelled up immediately.

The terror and astonishment she suffered at such treatment, prevented her losing her senses a second time: yet would it have been

been the height of happiness, if she had, as she might have escaped the bitter reproaches of Montague, whose eyes rolled wildly, and his brow was so knit with frowns, that she bore the appearance of a maniac, while he gazed at her and Lord Conrade, who with humane attention and forbearance, was doing all in his power to relieve her.

Amelrosa endeavored to prevent his assiduities, plainly perceiving that Glenholme was jealous of his lordship; and reflecting on his being there, and having discovered where she was, wonder and dismay took possession of her faculties. However, again summoning her resolution, notwithstanding the furious rebuff she had received, she requested him in a trembling voice to hear her.

"No, never will I listen to you again, false perjured girl," Montague replied, with the utmost agitation. "Do not flatter

yourself, you shall make an easy dupe of me a second time. Had not these eyes witnessed your perfidy, I could not have believed it. After an injury so deep, and such a cruel return for my fidelity and sufferings for your sake, we are separated for ever, and reconciliation impossible."

Here he paused, almost suffocated with grief; then suddenly advancing to her, exclaimed, "Though you have been my destruction, may you be happy. Forgive the consequence of my rage, as the sight of my hopes blasted, was too much for my wounded mind, and for the moment subdued my reason. By this parting kiss, (snatching one before she was aware) I tear you from my heart." Emotions the most vehement and involuntary, prevented his articulating any more: he took out his handkerchief, held it some time to his eyes, then recovering himself, and darting a haughty glare of defiance at Lord Conrade, fiercely said, "For you, my Lord, I shall find

find an opportunity of resenting your treacherous alienation of that unhappy girl's affections;" and without attending to his lordship's attempts to exculpate himself and Amelrosa, he rushed from them in an agonized transport of sorrow.

In speechless amazement, exhausted with terror and poignant grief, Amelrosa remained several minutes, till her recollection returned; then clasping her white hands, and raising her melting eyes to heaven, faintly murmured—"Now is the measure of my woes completed. Fate has not another misery in store for me: of every comfort at this dread hour bereft. But what do I say, sure these senses are bewildered, or I could not forget, there is one misfortune that may happen to overwhelm me with greater anguish than I have yet sustained.

"Oh, my Lord!" she exclaimed, falling on her knees to Lord Conrade.

" Spare me yet the wretchedness of knowing, that I have been the occasion of your's or Captain Glenholme's death: convinced from the last words he uttered, that he intends sending you a challenge. Keep out of his way, that he may not be able to find you till his anger is subsided. I ask this, as a compensation for the injury you have unintentionally done me."

Lord Conrade, excessively affected, raised her immediately from this humiliating posture, in which he could not endure to see her, and solemnly promised, that to relieve her anxiety, he would go out of town immediately to avoid Captain Glenholme, notwithstanding the repugnance he felt at behaving in this apparently cowardly manner.

This promise was like a healing balm to her lacerated feelings; and having gratefully expressed her sense of the obligation, contintinued:—" Give my love to Minette,

Minette, and tell her I am too much agitated at present, to speak to her, and feel so *ill*, that the best plan I can pursue, is to hasten home. How happy I should be, if you would be just to her. She is lovely, well born, accomplished, and amiable; in fortune alone your inferior, my Lord; therefore I hope, when you reflect on these advantages, you will atone for your past conduct. I shall come as soon as I can to see her, though God knows what I shall risk by it; yet conscious of the purity of my intentions, I shall not relinquish the claims of humanity and friendship." The goodness, sensibility, and noble mind of Amelrosa had never been more conspicuously evident than on this eventful day; and admiration and compassion for her sufferings, nearly vanquished his lordship's selfish passion.

"I shall not enter this house again," he replied, "consequently, there will be no impropriety in your coming here; and

give me leave to ring the bell for a coach, as you cannot think of going out in such a situation without one."

Lord Conrade then procured her some vinegar to bathe her forehead, which having done, she drew her hair over it to hide the swelling, and letting her veil fall over her face, weak and trembling was supported to the coach he had procured for her, by his lordship, and in a short time conveyed to Piccadilly.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

——————— with heart opprest,
Alone, reluctant, desolate and slow,
By friendship's cheering radiance *now* unblest,
Along life's rudest path I seem to go;
Nor see where yet the anxious heart may rest,
That trembling at the past—recoils from future woe;

Charlotte Smith.

AMELROSA tottered into the house, and repairing to her own apartment, flung off her hat and cloak, and threw herself exhausted on the bed, where she relieved her swoln heart with weeping, till at length she fell into an uneasy slumber. When she awoke, finding herself extremely weak and feverish, and that she had dozed to her

great surprise, till evening, Amelrosa ordered some tea, and taking up a book to divert her miserable reflections, read till ten o'clock and then retired to rest. She slept tolerably well; when about three in the morning she was awakened by a loud knocking at the door, occasioned by Mrs. Stanhope and her daughter coming home from an assembly.

Thoroughly awakened, she found it impossible to sleep any more, as numerous thoughts, relative to what had passed at the habitation of Minette, crowded into her mind. That hapless female, like herself, the victim of misfortune, must have heard nearly the whole of her conversation with Lord Conrade, and the other circumstances which happened; and she was astonished at her not entering the apartment when she was with his lordship. How much did she wish it had been the case, as she would not then have been found alone with him. On consideration, she concluded that Minette's keep-

keeping in the back ground, proceeded either from feeling herself too unwell to encounter such a scene; or otherwise, from the idea of offending Lord Conrade, who would, she judged, be provoked to see her at such a moment. However, Amelrosa determined to go the first time she felt sufficiently recovered, to visit the lovely unfortunate emigrant; as she wished to converse with her on the events that had taken place, and was anxious to know how she bore his lordship's ill conduct.

Involuntarily she shuddered, when she remembered she had seen Montague, and was lessened in his esteem; perhaps an object of contempt and hatred, which her apparent infidelity seemed to claim. His unexpected return to England would have elated her heart with transport, had their first interview been more fortunate; but now her surprise, almost too great for expression, was intermingled with the most cruel pangs; and his being prepared, ap-

parently, from the words he uttered in his violent emotion, to find her faithless, was still more wonderful. The fatal truth, that he had renounced her for ever, was but too certain; and sometimes she considered it was useless therefore to weary herself with conjectures, since she could not recall past felicity. Her thoughts could not rest on any subject productive of pleasure; and to prevent herself from entirely sinking under the present calamity, required the utmost exertion of fortitude. In vain she looked forward with eager expectations, to a letter from Lady Archdale: day after day elapsed, and brought repeated disappointments, till at length she wrote again, fearful her letter had miscarried.

During this interval, she received another letter from Emmeline Glenholme, enclosing a bank-note, and requesting she would be so good as to make several purchases for her, and send them to Scotland. With her brother's arrival she seemed totally

tally unacquainted, merely observing she had not heard from him lately, which added to Amelrosa's astonishment; but had she known the circumstances attendant on Montague's sudden appearance, she would have ceased to be surprised.

The Colonel of the regiment to which he belonged, had received private information from Government, some months before it took place, that the troops were soon to be ordered home; but was commanded to keep this intelligence concealed from the officers and men, till he had a public order for the embarkation of the corps. A very short period had elapsed, after Montague's having consented to his sister's going to Sir Robert's, and already seen the white sails of the ship that conveyed her to England, fluttering in the breeze, when the delightful information reached his ears, that his regiment was to embark immediately; vessels for the purpose being just arrived with dispatches from Great Britain for

Mrs. Stanhope, notwithstanding the littleness of a mind warped with prejudice, and a mean partiality in favor of grandeur and riches only, added to a tincture of jealousy at the superior attractions of Amelrosa to her daughter; Catherine having made her believe, that by her arts she had seduced Lord Conrade from her: yet could not instantly credit that Miss de Merida was so lost to virtue and decency, as privately to intrigue with one man when engaged to another—for in this light had her daughter represented the affair to her.

Mrs. Stanhope, therefore, replied in answer to this accusation, that Lord Conrade and Amelrosa might by accident go into the same house; nor could she decide against her till she had endeavored to make her acknowledge where she visited; and if she did not confess, she would then certainly pronounce her guilty.

With this intention, accompanied by her daughter,

daughter, she had accosted Amelrosa in the abrupt manner before-mentioned, taxing her with the imprudence of her conduct; and from her not saying any thing to develop where she went, had the illiberality and weakness of understanding to conclude, all that she had heard to her disadvantage was true.

In fact, it was exceedingly impertinent to concern herself where Amelrosa went, who was authorised to go wherever she pleased, without being questioned on the subject. The purity of her manners and universal correctness of her behavior, would have been sufficient with any liberal mind, to have exculpated her from blame, unless they had received convincing proofs of error; and Catherine, with the hope of discovering farther evidence of guilt, privately investigated her visits at the house with the strictest scrutiny; and learned, to her complete discomfiture, that it was to a Mrs. Belmont, Amelrosa's visits were intended.

Cau-

Cautiously, however, she concealed this vindication, only known to Smith and herself, from her mother; and contrived one day when she was with her, to drive through the street where Minette resided, and pointing out the house, its mean appearance was sufficient to convince Mrs. Stanhope, in whose mind pride was a predominant sentiment, that no person creditable would dwell there; and entirely decided against Amelrosa—more especially as the fat woman was standing at the door, whose unprepossessing exterior and slovenly dress, though an honest woman, was similar to that of women in general who keep inferior houses of ill fame.

When they heard that Montague was below, Catherine with the utmost perturbation addressed her mother.—

"Surely, my dear madam, you will not suffer this gentleman to be deceived respecting Amelrosa? It will be doing the greatest

greatest kindness to both, to let him be acquainted with her attachment to another, as their union will otherwise be productive of misery to themselves, when he finds after marriage her regard is alienated and she is pining for Lord Conrade.—At all events, I would slightly mention our confirmed suspicions; and Smith and myself strongly suspect she is now gone to the house where she meets his lordship, as Smith is certain from the direction she took, as she watched her when she went out, that she is going there."

"Unworthy girl!" exclaimed Mrs. Stanhope, "she has quite exhausted my patience." And with an idea that it was doing an act of justice, and naturally of a severe disposition, she desired in consequence of Catherine's representations, that Captain Glenholme should be shewn up.

The striking elegance and noble grandeur of his air, which bespoke the polished soldier, inspired them with admiration, and added

added new poignancy to the rancour of Catherine. The rapture that filled his soul at the prospect of seeing Amelrosa, gave the most speaking animation to his eyes, and enlivened his whole countenance.—Being always exposed to the weather and the heat of the climate in Portugal, the scorching rays had sun-burnt his face; yet it had, in consequence, acquired a more manly look; while the fairness of his forehead denoted the natural fineness of his complexion: his mouth was a model of perfection, and when he smiled, as he gracefully addressed Mrs. Stanhope and her daughter, the most fascinating expression dwelt on his lips; and he displayed teeth delicately regular, whose whiteness were forcibly contrasted by the embrowned hue of his countenance.—His eyes, however, wandered about the room, as if he expected to have seen Amelrosa; and eagerly asking after her, the expression of joy that illumed them, disappeared when he found she was not at home.

Perceiving

Perceiving his disappointment, Mrs. Stanhope in the most artful manner, introduced the subject on which she wished to converse with him; and after a long preambulation, on the regard she felt for Amelrosa, and that Lady Archdale had imparted their engagement; she continued to add, how grieved she was to wound his feelings, though necessitated to acquaint him, that Lord Conrade Mansforth had alienated her affections.

Frequently, she informed him, had she expostulated with this misguided girl, knowing she was contracted to another, but with no other effect than incurring her displeasure, without occasioning her to desist from her imprudence; which had indeed, rather increased from that time, having lately met Lord Conrade very often at a house far from reputable. "I am much mistaken," Mrs. Stanhope proceeded, (uninterrupted by Montague, who petrified with sorrow and astonishment, could not articulate)

articulate) "if she is not gone there this morning, and will give you an address to the place where I suspect she now is. I would advise you, to convince yourself if she is in the house, and you had better after the street door is opened, run up without asking any questions to the first floor; where, I understand, she has interviews with his lordship; and perhaps, the sight of you, may rouse her from her present delusion; whilst with redoubled affection, her heart returns to its first possessor."

As her mother spoke, Catherine was gnawing her lips with stifled rage, considering if Captain Glenholme went to the house, he might probably find Amelrosa with the Mrs. Belmont she visited, and her innocence be established; however, contrary to her expectation, her malignant disposition was completely gratified by an unfortunate concatenation of events, that proved more fatal to the meek victim of her hatred, than she could have hoped.

Montague,

Montague, with feelings totally the reverse of those with which he had been introduced to Mrs. Stanhope; his mind overwhelmed with despair, at the prospect of his promised happiness being blasted, at a moment when he thought it most perfect; flew, scarcely knowing what he did, to the habitation of Minette. The scene he there witnessed, confirmed the truth of all he had heard, as previously some doubts had arisen in his breast, from the high opinion he entertained of Amelrosa, though the bare suggestion of her being unfaithful, was sufficient to render him miserable lest it should prove true.

The horrible conviction he now received. Harrassed mentally and personally, he set down in the violent impulse of the moment, and penned a challenge to Lord Conrade; but after sending a porter and his own servant to his residence, and every part of the town where his lordship was likely to be found, till day closed in, they returned

returned to him, after having made fruitless researches. They had been absent several hours, and by the time they came back, his recollection was restored, his passions calmed, and reason resuming her empire, he was rejoiced at their not having discovered Lord Conrade.

Though a soldier, and the bravest of men, duelling he did not approve. His country's foes he would face undaunted; or to defend a fellow creature, encounter imminent danger; but in cold blood to destroy, he abhorred; and only in such a moment of frenzy as he sustained, could have sent a challenge. He never gave an unprovoked insult, or would brook one; besides, he considered, as Amelrosa had transferred her affections, it would be most wounding to her feelings, should he deprive her favorite lover of life; or, if he fell himself beneath Lord Conrade's sword, occasion him to be tried by the laws of his country, which must cruelly wound her mind.

mind. His passion had never been selfish, but her happiness his first object; and the regard he still retained, which her apparent ill usage could not obliterate, inclined him, since his earliest emotions of rage were subsided, to avoid any action that would give her additional uneasiness; and with these exalted sentiments, exhausted with internal and external pain, he retired to rest, endeavoring to gain a transient oblivion of his severe disappointment.

From the period of her last interview with Montague, Amelrosa sometimes by accident, met Mrs. Stanhope and Catherine on the stairs, though they as studiously avoided her as she did them, and never looked at her but with the most chilling coldness. The striking alteration in her person, and the mournful air that distinguished her, plainly evinced the success of the injury they had meditated; and their guilt forcibly striking them, they could not endure to behold her:—at least such

were the sensations of Mrs. Stanhope; for Catherine felt little else than a rooted enmity to her; while her mother was conscious, that supposing there had been any impropriety in her conduct, she had no right to interfere and prejudice the gentleman to whom she was engaged, to her disadvantage.

Amelrosa now found it necessary to awaken her fortitude, perceiving if she yielded to despondence, she would be incapable of the most trifling exertion. She wished to inquire after the health of Minette, yet dreaded going to the house, as it would remind her of the cruel scene she had undergone there; and recollected that she must likewise execute the commission Emmeline Glenholme had given her, to make several purchases, and she was more anxious not to neglect her, from being so peculiarly situated with her brother.

That she might have less chance, in her pre-

present dejection, of meeting any of her acquaintance, she left Mrs. Stanhope's early in the morning, proposing to go a shopping after she had seen Minette, and to remain a very short time with her, intending to return home soon. As she knocked at the door she shuddered involuntarily, and slightly asking if Mrs. Belmont was at home, was going up stairs, before she heard the answer, when the fat woman arrested her footsteps, with this address:—

"For sartin, Miss, you'll be disappointed; for poor Mrs. Belmont has left me these two days: howsomever, I've got a bit of a letter for you; and if you dident come in the course of a week, I was to put it in the post for you. I be main sorry she's a gone; poor thing, she was very ill, and cried fit to break her heart when she got into the poshay with the nurse and the dear baby. She's the most good-natured generous lady I ever know'd, and I love her the same as if she was my own darter, for

all she's a farigner; and I can't say as how I have much fancy for them outlandish folks, especially the French; for they speak so much through their nose, and be in general so black and tawny in their complexions; but, lord, she was for all the world the same in point of colour as our English; fair as Phillis; and I dares to say, when she was in good health, had a pure red and white." The fat woman would have continued her gossip, but Amelrosa's impatience to read Minette's writing, was so great, that without attending to her any longer, she hastily broke the seal.

The lines were scarcely legible, apparently written by the trembling pen of an invalid, entirely opposite to the neat hand of Minette, which she had often admired. Concise, yet with energy, she expressed the warm regret at being obliged to go into the country without seeing her: but circumstances, she could not then explain, [illegible] she

next

must wonder at her not making her appearance during the scene that passed between herself and Lord Conrade. For this she accounted, by confessing she had not courage to enter, as she knew it would be disagreeable to him to see her at that moment; and so ardently was she attached to him, in defiance of every effort to conquer her unfortunate attachment, and the inward remonstrances of reason, that although his indifference was cutting to her soul, his hatred, she felt, would be still more dreadful.

This, she continued, she was persuaded she should have incurred, had she appeared and shewn herself as the insurmountable barrier placed between his lordship and Amelrosa, should the other obstacle be removed; Lord Conrade being too well acquainted with her goodness and refinement, to suppose she would accept his proffered hand, when it had been promised to another. Yet fondly as she loved, and

painful as it would be to her feelings, so disinterested was her regard, that if he would not be her's, she should not repine, if Amelrosa were united to him, if it ascertained his happiness; and her little boy would then have an affectionate second mother to supply her place, when she was no more: convinced from the sensations she experienced, that she could not long survive her disgrace.

For Amelrosa's goodness in not explaining the cause of her equivocal situation to any one, she knew not how to express her gratitude; but desired she would not hesitate to discover every thing, if her connexion with her, was in the smallest degree likely to be injurious to her reputation; as the reflection, that she was the occasion of any affliction to her, would render her miserable. To be exposed, was a proper punishment, she owned, for her guilt; yet that her father and sister might be spared the pangs of knowing her situation, she could

could not avoid, earnestly wishing, and that from them sorrow and self-accusation would be averted, and on herself alone misfortune fall; concluding, with telling Amelrosa she should every night pray for her happiness, and to see her again before her eyes were closed for ever in the calm sleep of death.

This letter beguiled Amelrosa of many tears, and the fat woman perceiving she wept, endeavored to comfort her, and some friendly drops of sympathy rolled down her plump cheeks. "Don't cry, Miss," said she; "I am sorry to see young people unhappy, and their troubles begin so early. I observed when you came in, that you looked very sorrowful; your fine bloom, for all the world like a wild rose, gone away, and looking as white as a sheet; just like poor Mrs. Belmont, sickly and sad. Cheer up, my dear, if I'd given way to fretting, with such a peck of troubles as I've known, I don't know what would have become of me; I should have

seen and in my sufferings ever since; but there's a good God in heaven. I did'nt expect to live in such a poor way as I do, in my younger days. I was much about your age, I think, when I married my first husband. He was a lieutenant in the navy, and in command of his ensign. He was earnest of promotion. He was ordered to join his ship when I was pregnant of my first child, and I was sitting on my sofa; for we had very handsome furniture, crying about his leaving me, when he said, 'Don't cry, Nancy. I shall soon come back with plenty of prize money for you.' 'Ah, William!' I replied, 'I cannot make myself easy concerning you; we shall never meet again.' 'Nancy,' said he, 'you unman me,' and hurrying from me; so we parted, and I thought my poor heart would have broke.

"My forebodings were but too true; in less than a month afterwards, he was killed in an engagement, and I had nothing but my

my pension to maintain myself and child; which made me, two years after, marry a tradesman in a good way of business; but he took to drinking, and I was forced every night to fetch him from the public house. I used then to think of poor William; yet I must say, for all that, he never gave me an angry word. Howsomever, he soon drank himself to death, and left me with six children, to battle through this world by myself, and only this house of furniture, that I get money by letting, and a small trifle more, to maintain us all. I got a little besides by my labour, though not much; but every little helps, where there is many hungry mouths to feed; but God be praised, her children, she added, were now all grown up, and were as honest and worthy a set of young people as any in the land, though she said it, that should not say it; and able to help their mother if she chose to take any thing from them."

Amelrosa expressed her concern for the

afflictions she had known, and was congratulating her on their happy termination, when the fat woman going to a small closet, brought out a bottle of gin and a glass, and pouring out some, begged Amelrosa to take it, saying it was very good for low spirits, and would do her more good from not being used to it. Indeed, it was her only comfort for many a good year; and finding her arguments could not prevail, which she was sorry for, drank off a large bumper herself; while Amelrosa at this sight, could with difficulty command her countenance, melancholy as she was, and asked her if she knew to what place Mrs. Belmont was gone. "She told me to the neighbourhood of Bath," rejoined Fatty; "and so the nurse said; but I'm much afeard that what I mentioned to her, hurried her away; though she was so generous as to make me a present of two guineas above what she owed for her lodgings, which I was loth to take.

"You

"You must know, my dear Miss, that the very night after you came last, a lady muffled up, desired to speak with me, and another woman waited in the street while she came in. She slipped a guinea into my hand, saying she would thank me to answer a few questions about you and Mr. Belmont. Howsomever, I was up to her, and minded what I said. Thinks I you want to pump me, but you shan't though, for all your guinea, which I'll take for all that; it will be of sarvice to me, as you chuse to be such a fool. I believe she wan't much satisfied; yet I was civil, and went away presently. I drank her health in some liquor, which I bought with the money, and when it got up into my head, like a noodle as I was, went and blabbed what had passed to Mrs. Belmont, who seemed to be frightened exceeding about the lady; for she did not like to see a living soul, or to be inquired after, which I knew; but when the wine's in, the wit's out, as the saying is; and by what nurse said, that sartinly made her be

been laid in my coffin long ago; but there's a good God in heaven. I did'nt expect to live in such a poor way as I do, in my younger days. I was much about your age, I think, when I married my first husband: he was a lieutenant in the navy, and so beloved by his captain, he was sartin of promotion. He was ordered to join his ship when I was pregnant of my first child, and I was sitting on my sofé; for we had very handsome furniture, crying about his leaving me, when he said, 'Don't cry, Nancy, I shall soon come back with plenty of prize money for you.' 'Ah, William!' I replied, 'I cannot make myself easy concarning you; we shall never meet again.' 'Nancy,' said he, 'you unman me,' and hurrying from me; so we parted, and I thought my poor heart would have broke.

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Amelrosa was conversing with the mistress of the shop on the subject, when a boy she employed, who had gone out to get change returned, saying, he could not get any where his mistress had desired him to go; "But ma'am," said he, "there is one of the grandest burials I ever see'd, coming down the street;" and scarcely had he finished speaking, when one of the most magnificent funerals they had ever beheld, began to pass by. The curiosity of the mistress of the shop was excited, and apologizing to Amelrosa for keeping her waiting, desired the boy to inquire, whose remains were being conveyed to their last mansion in such grand style, and afterwards to go to another place, to which she directed him for change.

Amelrosa, to whom the awful pomp of the solemn obsequies of the dead, always imparted a melancholy sensation, reminding her of the loss of beloved friends, was endeavoring to divert her thoughts into another

"You must know, my dear Miss, that the very night after you came last, a lady muffled up, desired to speak with me, and another woman waited in the street while she came in. She slipped a guinea into my hand, saying she would thank me to answer a few questions about you and Mr. Belmont. Howsomever, I was up to her, and minded what I said. Thinks I you want to pump me, but you shan't though, for all your guinea, which I'll take for all that; it will be of sarvice to me, as you chuse to be such a fool. I believe she wan't much satisfied; yet I was civil, and went away presently. I drank her health in some liquor, which I bought with the money, and when it got up into my head, like a noodle as I was, went and blabbed what had passed to Mrs. Belmont, who seemed to be frightened exceeding about the lady; for she did not like to see a living soul, or to be inquired after, which I knew; but when the wine's in, the wit's out, as the saying is; and by what nurse said, that sartinly made her be

some friend or relation, as I imagine, quite overcame her; for directly the boy repeated whose funeral it was, such a look of terror, as I never witnessed before, took possession of her countenance, and she turned of a more ashy white than ever."

Amelrosa now began to revive, and opening her eyes, forgot where she was, looking round with dismay at the strange faces about her; but recovering her recollection, burst into tears, and exclaimed, "Oh, my friend! my dear friend! shall I never see you more! Why did I not die, instead of you." She continued to weep to relieve her oppressed heart; and the people seeing her better, all retired, except their mistress; and Amelrosa thanking her for her humane attention, added, she must trespass further on her goodness, by requesting she would procure her a hackney coach; and the boy was instantly dispatched for one. The mistress of the shop then gave her the change, promising punctually

tually to observe her commands, respecting the purchases she had made for Emmeline, and attended her to the coach, which she got into with weeping eyes.

Amelrosa did not take any nourishment during the remainder of the day, but continued to mourn incessantly for the loss of her beloved friend; while the increased forlornness of her situation forcibly occurred to her afflicted mind: though with her at that moment, it was an inferior consideration; and could Lady Archdale have been restored to life, she would have been content, she thought, to encounter the severest misery.

Since she had been out, the intelligence of Lady Archdale's death had reached Mrs. Stanhope, and hastily spreading throughout the house, came to the ears of the affectionate Lucy, who being well acquainted with the friendship her ladyship had for Amelrosa; and learning from the footman, she

she came home very dejected, and looked as if she had been crying, hastened to offer her humble consolation, and endeavored to persuade her to take some refreshment, as she appeared quite exhausted: but her kind persuasions could not prevail. She came up as frequently as her occupations would permit, to see her, and in the evening informed her, that Mr. Melville, apothecary to the late Lady Archdale, wished to speak with her. Amelrosa, who highly respected him, and imagined he had some interesting information relative to her dear friend, to communicate, desired he might be shewn into her dressing-room.

He was shocked on his entrance, at the striking alteration in her person for the worse; and attributing it entirely to affliction for the loss of her ladyship, (being ignorant of the dreadful and unexpected manner in which she was informed of her misfortune,) attempted to comfort her. But when she imparted to him, the sudden

and

and unprepared surprise she had received, he was quite astonished; and expressing his concern, assured her, he had concluded that Denham, or some other of Lady Archdale's numerous servants, who were all in town, or Mr. Kennedy, would have acquainted her, either personally or by letter, of the melancholy event, so important to her, that had taken place. An idea of their acting so neglectfully and void of feeling, never suggested itself, or he would himself have been the messenger of the mournful tidings, having merely called at present, supposing she had received proper information, to offer his compliments of condolance.

"Though my knowledge of the world, my dear Sir," replied Amelrosa, "is not very extensive, yet the little I have seen of it, is sufficient to convince me, that now the object is no more, that occasioned the civilities I received from every one, whose inte-

interest it was to be attentive to me, to attain favor with her ladyship, I shall from that moment, be forsaken and neglected, as a person of little estimation; and is it not an illustration of what I have advanced, that not one of the servants, who formerly looked up to me with homage, have had consideration or respect enough, to acquaint be with an event so peculiarly interesting to me. From you alone, on whom I had no claim, have I received politeness. Will you increase the obligation, by gaining what intelligence you can for me, respecting Lady Archdale's will, as I feel myself very unpleasantly situated in this house, from having been troubled with rudeness and unkindness, and am therefore anxious to quit it; but wish first to know my expectations from her ladyship; that valued friend, before she left London, omitting to supply me with money as usual, which causes me to be extremely embarrassed. being nearly destitute; for the

the greater part of the few guineas I possess, must be paid away."

Mr. Melville expressed the compassion he really felt for her situation; and promising to give her the earliest information respecting the will, took his leave; and Amelrosa, whose spirits were renovated by his presence, at his departure again yielded to the most acute sorrow.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

——————— Once I was happy;
Clear and serene my life's calm current ran,
While scarce a breezy wish provok'd its tide!
Down the smooth flood the tuneful passions fell
In easy lapse, and slumber'd as they pass'd.
Now what a change is wrought!

Cumberland.

THE next morning Amelrosa scarcely touched any breakfast, and heedless what she did, from the croud of painful thoughts that occupied her mind, rose from the table, and walked to the window. At that moment, a female in mourning, who bore a strong resemblance to Denham, crossed from the opposite side of the street to the house,

house; and concluding from making her appearance there, she intended coming to see her, was in continual expectation for some time that she should behold her enter the apartment. But vainly did she expect her, and felt disappointed though she disliked the woman, (from having heard she was her enemy,) yet having been with Lady Archdale at the closing scene of life, she wished, on that account only, to have seen her and to have made many inquiries relating to her dear benefactress.

Conjecturing she must have been mistaken in Denham's person, from her not waiting on her, she sat down and taking out Lady Archdale's portrait from a little box in which she carefully preserved it, reclined on the table with her head on her arm; and as she contemplated the picture, bathed it with the tears that imperceptibly fell from her eyes.

From this gentle indulgence of grief she

was abruptly awakened by Miss Stanhope, who suddenly entered, and without the least pity for her, notwithstanding the semblance of woe she wore, that would have softened many hearts, however obdurate, rudely informed her that her mother desired she would tell her, that since the only tie that bound her to protect her, was dissolved, she would thank her as soon as possible to leave the house, because she wanted her apartment for a lady who was coming on a visit to them.

Amelrosa, too depressed to shew any resentment, replied in a faultering voice, that she would immediately quit the house after packing up her clothes. "Oh, pray do not put yourself to such inconvenience, as to be in too great a bustle so suddenly. My mother would not wish it as you have, I believe, no friends to receive you.—To-morrow morning will be time enough for you to depart, and you had better not go before as you seem so ill.—Besides, what a ridi-

a ridiculous figure you would make to go out with those red, swoln eyes and haggard face:—I never in my life saw any person so shockingly altered! Your face, at present, would not easily attract a lover I fancy.—But I forgot in looking at you the principal part of my business,—my mother requests you will pay what is owing for your board."

"With the payment of it I have no concern, madam," rejoined Amelrosa. "My lamented friend agreed with your mother, to discharge every expence for me: had I, however, any money sufficient for the purpose, I would certainly pay it instantly; but as that is not the case it is impossible."

"Extremely well,—exactly as I suspected, and told my mother,—that after being troubled with you, it would, I was convinced, be a difficult matter to get paid. Were you of age, and myself in her situation, I would certainly arrest you."

"Such humane sentiments are perfectly consistent with the general conduct of Miss

Stanhope," replied Amelrosa, collecting a little more spirit; "who may assure her mother she need not make herself uneasy, for I have every reason to hope, Lady Archdale has bequeathed me money to pay the debt; and at all events, should it not be so, the executors, if Mrs. Stanhope represents her just claim, will certainly discharge it."

"With respect to the executors," hastily rejoined Catherine, much provoked, "I cannot say any thing,—but with regard to yourself, I am certain you will have but a trifle to spare, if I have been well informed: however, should the sum left you be ever so small, it is as much as a foundling, brought up on charity, can expect!"

And with these words and a scornful look she retired,—leaving Amelrosa motionless with astonishment, and unable to imagine how Catherine became acquainted with the mystery of her early years.

On

On this circumstance she was pensively musing, when Lucy entered with a sorrowful air and said, "Miss Stanhope has desired me to come and help pack up your things, which makes me suppose we are going to lose you, my dear young lady.—To be sure," she continued, sobbing, "I don't know what will become of me when you are gone: all my comfort was to see you, and talk to you of my troubles.—It makes my heart ache besides, to find you are so unhappy.—Ah, if such a good and beautiful lady, and brought up so grand, knows sorrow, poor, simple Lucy must not complain."

The sincere compassion and affection of this artless girl, soothed and comforted Amelrosa; and convinced of the excellence of her heart, related to her as she was employed in packing, exactly in what manner she was situated; which again made her eyes swim in tears; and when she had done speaking, Lucy began once

more to gossip, saying, "Indeed I can't bear to stay here after you are gone, and what has passed; for I don't like my mistress and her daughter.—They are so proud that they think a servant hardly worthy to wipe the dust off their shoes; and Mrs. Smith, Miss Stanhope's woman, is just the same; and 'tis quite uncomfortable to live in such a house. Mrs. Denham, who used to come to you sometimes from Devonshire-place, has just been here; and Mrs. Smith and her, have both been ridiculing you at no small rate; which made me quite in a passion when I heard it, as I was dusting the store-room, next to the housekeeper's room,—and Mrs. Denham was saying you was only a bastard and a foundling, that owed every thing to charity; but Lady Archdale had found you out at last, and you'd find yourself disappointed; and a great deal more I don't remember, both of the ill-natured old cats laughing ready to kill themselves; I can't help calling them by that name, they are so spiteful, though

to

to be sure, it is not very well behaved of me to my elders. I could not bear to hear them, and was so glad when Mr. Johnson, the butler, who was in the room, answered them pretty smartly."

"Well, ladies," said he, "you may run down Miss Amelrosa, as much as you like, and say she is this, that, or t'other; but for my part, I never see a lovelier young lady in my life; and let her be base born, brought up on charity, or what you please, she speaks so sweet, and is so affable and has such a lady-like behavior and appearance, that she's more worthy to be the wife of a duke, or a prince, at least, than any thing else; and they'd be honored by their choice too, let me tell you."

"You are like all the rest of the men fellows, that are taken in by her cant," replied Smith, scornfully tossing her head, as I saw her through the glass door, and speaking in a shrill voice. "She fit to be

the wife of a prince! so's the kitchen maid then.—She a beauty! your beauties indeed, make me sick always: why she's nothing, by the side of my mistress, who's head and shoulders taller. She looks indeed majestic, like a queen." "Ha! ha!" replied Johnson; "Like a queen! the queen of ——. I'll say no more. As Peter the thingembob poet says; I forget his other name. No horse-godmothers for me; I hate a woman like a sentry-box." "It's like your impudence, Mr. Johnson, to say such things of my lady," said Mrs. Smith, in a great passion; "I'll tell her of it;" and this was all I heard continued Lucy; for having finished what I had to do, I came away, fearful they would think I was listening; but I cannot express how much I was pleased with Mr. Johnson."

Ill and wretched as she was, Amelrosa could not avoid smiling at Lucy's account of the waiting women and Mr. Johnson, and easily discovered from whence Miss Stan-

Stanhope had received the intelligence relating to the days of her infancy.

"If I might be so bold as to give my advice," rejoined Lucy, "to a lady of your sense and education; as I have heard you say you are fond of the country, and I know you are not the least proud; situated as you are, and in such bad health, I think it would do you good to go out of town; and if it is not too far off, you can be lodged and boarded for a trifle, at my father's cottage, and my parents would shew you great kindness, for they are worthy people; and likewise more for my sake, as well as from admiring you, my dear lady, when they know you. You would have every thing about, though not fine, clean and neat.

Amelrosa in reply, assured her she was exceedingly obliged to her, for suggesting this plan, as she would prefer it to any other; and desired her to write immedi-

ately to her father and mother, to know what terms they demanded for lodging and boarding her by the quarter, and requested she would acquaint her with the result, as soon as she could. When she gave Lucy her address at Mr. Taylor's, where she intended to go, she desired she would send Mr. Melville there, but no one else; and giving her money to discharge the little debts she owed, found herself then possessed of a mere trifle.

Her motive for going to Mr. Taylor's, proceeded from the frequent pressing invitations she had received, to come and spend some time with them; and now that it would be extremely convenient to herself, she took this opportunity of accepting their friendly offer.

Having made the necessary arrangements, and her boxes placed in the hackney coach, the fair and unfortunate wanderer bid adieu to Lucy, whom she intreated

treated to visit her as often as she could, and ordered the coachman to drive to Gower-street, where she threw the Taylor family into consternation by her sudden appearance. However, they assured her, the surprise was very agreeable, and had her boxes placed in the best bed-chamber; an attention which greatly pleased her, as she proposed, should they not receive her with cordiality, to have gone to the fat woman's to lodge; not being intimate with any person, at whose house she could have taken refuge, except the Countess de Villette's, who was unfortunately out of town. But had it been otherwise, she would have preferred residing at Mr. Taylor's, from not being subject to hear or see any thing of the Lunevilles, whose misfortunes as she could not alleviate them, wounded her feeling mind to witness, or hear mentioned; more particularly, since she discovered the situation of Minette, and how much she had heightened their afflictions. Mrs. Romney's parting words were im-

pressed on her mind; and earnestly did she wish, that Mr. Romney and herself were returned to England. Sometimes she thought of visiting Portugal again, but could not fix any plan till she knew the state of her circumstances.

For the first two or three days, seeing her very low-spirited, which they attributed solely to grief for the loss of her friend, having seen her death mentioned in the newspaper; Mr. and Mrs. Taylor forbore to importune her with questions; but curiosity at length conquered their forbearance, and the loquacity of the latter, could no longer be restrained, and eagerly she interrogated her visitor respecting the amount of the legacy Lady Archdale had left her, before her husband.

Young as she was, Amelrosa had yet seen sufficiently of mankind, not to be ignorant, that with the generality of people, and particularly those of narrow minds and confined

confined education, fortune is the only claim to distinction, though some noble souls are to be met with. Yet so unsuspicious was her disposition, that she rarely suspected the kindness she received, to be otherwise than the genuine feelings of those who evinced it, and was always inclined to display her natural candour. Had a painter indeed, wished to have represented ingenuousness, he should have copied from her, as no one could so well express that character.

Without disguise, therefore, she described her almost destitute situation, and the uncertainty she suffered, from not having been informed if Lady Archdale had remembered her in her will.

The agitation she felt, while explaining her recent misfortunes, prevented her from observing the alteration that took place in the countenances of her auditors, whose civilities originated, from supposing her independent and connected with a number

of persons of rank to whom they were unknown, and might through her means, be introduced to fashionable life; to which their wealth had not yet been a passport: for ambition struggled with avarice in the breast of Mr. Taylor, notwithstanding, that in a moment of weakness, he had married such a low woman.

The charms himself and his vulgar spouse, had found in Amelrosa's conversation and manners, were now lessened, since the consequence that gave lustre to every thing she said or did, had vanished with the knowledge of her misfortunes. Scarcely had she finished speaking, when Mr. Taylor sneaked out of the room, without offering any condolements for her afflictions as she expected; while his wife, in the opposite extreme, grossly repeated frequently her concern; adding, she hoped she would have something left to maintain her, be it ever so small; "For it would be hard upon you, Miss," she continued,

tinued, "to be forced to earn your own bread, after being brought up so genteel."

In the same coarse manner she proceeded to address Amelrosa, quite different from the sycophantic style in which she was accustomed to speak; and this so much astonished and disgusted her, as the cause of the change did not then strike her, that she was exceedingly rejoiced when left alone; a circumstance which, however, had not previously happened since she entered the house. Mrs. Taylor observing her depression, refused to leave her by herself, saying young people should not be left alone when in that melancholy way. At the same time she thought she was performing a great act of politeness to keep her company, when in fact the height of good-breeding is to suffer a visitor to do as they please; but her glaring ignorance was a sufficient excuse with Amelrosa for the blunders she committed, as the motive was apparently kind, and every error except those

those of the heart, she made the most liberal allowance for.

She neither saw or heard any thing of Mrs. Taylor or her husband till dinner was announced, when they introduced her to a Colonel in the army, whose name was similar with their's; and being very poor and in debt, found it very convenient to borrow a few hundreds of Mr. Taylor, and repaid him by claiming relationship, affirming to a certainty that he was his sixteenth cousin.

Proud of having this gentleman, who was really a man of fashion, for his relation, he did not search too deeply into their degree of affinity to each other; and was happy, with all his parsimony, to pay dearly for the honor of being acknowledged by him as a kinsman; nor could even the dejected Amelrosa but with difficulty repress her smiles, when every time they addressed or spoke of him, it was with the appel-

appellation of my cousin the Colonel, who seemed inwardly to enjoy the farce, as the arch expression of his eye denoted.

When Amelrosa retired for the night, instead of the wax taper that filled the silver candlestick (which had likewise disappeared) was substituted a tallow candle so slender, that it emitted less light than a rush-light. Supposing it was occasioned by some mistake, she mentioned it to the servant who was in her chamber filling the jug with water, and was assured by her, it was placed there by the commands of her mistress; and that they never used any other candles but when they had particular company; and by her master's orders candles were made on purpose for him, thirty to the pound, to prevent waste. Hearing this, Amelrosa said no more, but thought it very extraordinary.

At breakfast the following morning, stale bread, coarse brown sugar, rank salt butter,

butter, with tea of inferior quality were exhibited; and Amelrosa, for the first time, was impressed with an idea that the candid avowal of her circumstances, had occasioned this visible alteration in their treatment of her.

During breakfast, of which Amelrosa eat but sparingly, as her appetite was delicate from the indifferent state of her health and the repast before her, far from inviting, made her eat still less,—the footman entered, saying, Mr. Green had sent his master a present of a haunch of venison, with his compliments. "Here, then," said Mr. Taylor, "give the person who brought it these halfpence for a pint of beer. The footman went out, and returning with a suppressed grin on his countenance, repeated that the man who brought the venison was the gentleman's groom, and would not take the halfpence,—never having less, he said, than half-a-crown or five shillings when his master sent him with a present of venison any where.

At

At this speech Mr. Taylor's penury and passion conquered his pride, and in a violent rage he exclaimed, "Let the fellow take the haunch back again!—half-a-crown or five shillings indeed, why I can get mutton cheaper and like it better."

The groom, however, dared not take it back, fearful of displeasing his master; and throwing it down in the hall, d—ed Mr. Taylor for an old stingy curmudgeon. This adventure ruffled his temper for the whole day, and after an uncomfortable dinner of fat mutton and suet dumplings, which they called dampers, and drinking tea in the same elegant manner as the breakfast, Mr. Taylor addressed Amelrosa, and rubbing his hands with a face of glee, said, "Suppose, my dear, we have a bit of fun to-night, and go to bed without any supper?" Purposely to provoke him, Amelrosa replied, "Why really, Sir, I could propose a much better diversion, and that is, to have a very good supper before we go to bed."

This

This answer seemed to seriously offend him, and he rejoined, it was easy for people to talk who never knew the expence of providing for a family; that taxes were high and provisions dear, and it was necessary for every one to be economical.

The next day she was much amused with hearing, as she sat in the drawing-room, two of the maid servants, when their master and mistress were out, conversing on the staircase.—The door was a-jar, and one of them who was sweeping the stairs, had rested on her broom, and told the other, who was a new servant, that the reason her master always walked with his arms stuck out from his sides, was from fear that the sleeves of his coat, rubbing against the sides, might wear it out sooner than it would else.—"When no company dines with him," she continued, "he always eats his dinner in a drawer, that the crumbs may not be wasted; and what was still more laughable in the old niggard, when the

the servants were at dinner, which was earlier sometimes than his, he would come into the kitchen to watch how much they eat, and ask leave to dip a bit of bread in their gravy, eating dry bread alone for his lunch.—Mrs. Taylor was not half so stingy," added the maid; "but he wanted to make her as bad as himself, and she was getting more like him, so that no servant ever lived with them lately, longer than a month."

The more distinct knowledge Amelrosa had acquired of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, from this little circumstance, in addition to several others that had happened since her short residence with them, added to the change in her situation which had operated in disclosing the littleness of their minds, altogether contributed to inspire her with a complete contempt for them; and she resolved, as soon as possible, to quit their inhospitable mansion.

Mrs.

Mrs. Taylor, though ill educated and ignorant, she supposed had possessed a better heart; but like her husband, she perceived this vulgar woman only courted the favor of those who were blessed with affluence; while Mr. Taylor exceeded all she could have imagined that was mean; and the contention he sustained between pride and avarice, was absurd and pitiful in the extreme.

As these reflections engaged her mind, she was aroused from them by the footman announcing to her that a Mr. Melville wished to see her in the parlour. A beam of pleasure to which she had been long a stranger, cheered her heart on hearing this, and she flew to meet him. "I am sorry to find you do not look any better, my young friend," exclaimed the worthy Melville, when he beheld her; "and it is with the deepest concern I inform you, that I have no intelligence to communicate, that will tend to elevate your spirits."

"After

"After my past sufferings," replied Amelrosa, with a faint smile, "few events will either violently depress or elevate me; but I guess what you will say—my valued friend has not recollected in her will the child of her adoption."

"I am rejoiced that you have anticipated my information to be still worse than it is, as it will consequently not appear so unpleasant to you;—Lady Archdale has bequeathed you one hundred pounds only. It is usual to pay all legacies twelvemonths after the decease of the legatee, but I have interceded with the executors to let you have it in six months, judging you would be in want of it before; and could I have procured it for you earlier, I would with pleasure."

"How good, how considerate you are," rejoined Amelrosa, while a glow of grateful emotion suffused her pale face; and she then proceeded to relate how unfortunate she was in being again disagreeably situated, acquainting him with the character

of the Taylors; and that could she have procured money, she intended to have retired for a few months into the country, to re-establish her health, as she could be supported at the cottage of Lucy's father very cheaply.

At present, from the slow fever that preyed on her wasted frame, caused by grief and anxiety, she was incapable of any exertion, that would soon be necessary to maintain herself; but if she continued ill, wretched indeed would be her fate, to have poverty and indisposition both to struggle with. Mr. Melville very much approved the proposed plan of going into the country, and insisted she should not forego it, saying he would lend her the necessary sum of money, which could be repaid when she received her legacy; and while her health and spirits were being restored by the pure air of Dorsetshire, he would be seeking out for a respectable situation, as governess or companion for her. Amelrosa assured him that

that the most energetic and ardent language could express but in a very inferior degree, the sentiments of gratitude that pervaded her bosom, at this instance of his friendship and humanity; and after some further conversation they parted,—Mr. Melville having first desired she would send for him as soon as she heard from Lucy.

A week had nearly elapsed since her residence at the Taylors, and each revolving day discovered increasing proofs of their meanness and eagerness to get rid of her, which heightened her impatience to hear from Lucy; when one morning she was agreeably surprised by her appearance. The affectionate girl's eyes sparkled with delight at the sight of Amelrosa, and she placed an open letter in her hand, which on the perusal she found was from Lucy's father, who demanded no more than five pounds every quarter, to lodge, board and wash for the lady.

These

These moderate terms were lower than she could have expected, and she told Lucy she should be most happy to accede to them, were she not afraid it would be a disadvantage to her parents to take her at such a low price; but Lucy quickly silenced her scruples by assuring her, that provisions were reasonable in that part of the country, and her father by keeping a little farm procured every article necessary for the table at a still more cheap rate, within his own small domain. In consequence of hearing this, Amelrosa immediately sat down and wrote to Mr. Heartwell, informing him she should be at Stoke Morton, the name of the village where he resided, in four or five days; and giving the letter to Lucy, desired she would put it into the post for her; and call likewise at Mr. Melville's before she went home, with her compliments, and request he would be so good as to come to her the first moment he was at leisure.

Amelrosa

Amelrosa counted the hours till he arrived, which was not, however, till late in the evening; being engaged with several patients. He was glad to hear she could be so soon indulged in her most earnest wishes, and presented her with twenty pounds, which would be more than enough, she said, for all her expences of travelling and living in the country. Mr. Melville observed, if she wanted more, she had only to send for it; and with his usual good-nature, offered to take her a place in the stage for the day after to-morrow, at which time she wished to go; and it was extremely considerate of him to save her so much trouble.

The following day Amelrosa sent to Lucy, to beg she would, if possible, accompany her to the coach, Mr. Melville having promised to attend her, as she was to set off in it the next morning; and Lucy sending word she would, if possible, she began to busy herself the remainder of the

day in packing up; and afterwards informed Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, she was going to leave them.

So rejoiced were they at the prospect of her not eating and drinking at their expence much longer, that they became again properly civil, and pretended to be much chagrined at losing her company so soon, hoping she would endeavor to make it convenient to stay another week.

Amelrosa did not let them perceive she was convinced of their insincerity, not being willing to mortify them, from feeling obliged at having had an asylum at their house, however reluctantly given, and short the period of her continuance at their abode.

They looked very foolish as she thanked them the following morning, for the attention she had received, conscious they did not deserve any acknowledgments; and

and parting from them with cool politeness, she was escorted by Mr. Melville to the hackney coach, where Lucy, who had seen her trunk placed in it, was waiting for her.

As they drove to the stage, Amelrosa addressing Mr. Melville, said—"Will you add to the numberless favors conferred on me, by endeavoring to procure Lucy a more desirable situation than her present one, which is indeed undeserving her merit, and it is her intention to quit it as soon as possible?"

Mr. Melville assured her it would give him pleasure to serve Lucy, from her recommendation, as well as her own apparent worth; and that from his attending continually various families, it would not be a difficult task for him to procure something eligible for Lucy, who modestly thanked him.

They now arrived at the stage, and Lucy drowned in tears, hung affectionately on Amelrosa, requesting her to deliver a thousand kind remembrances to her friends; which she faithfully promised, and to write Mr. Melville and herself, on condition they answered her letters.

Having separated, the stage drove off, and they waited looking after it; while Amelrosa continued waving her hand to them, till they were no longer discernible.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

To him all is silent, and mournful, and dim,
E'en the seasons pass dreary and slow;
For affliction has plac'd its cold fetters on him,
And his soul is enamour'd of woe!

Mrs. Robinson.

IT would have been with sensations of unmixed pleasure, that Amelrosa quitted London, where she had known scarcely any thing but the most exquisite misery, (for the trifling amusements she had shared, placed in competition, were hardly worthy to be remembered,) had she not recollected she must return to it, to sustain, most probably, yet further trials; as to her own industry, she would then be

indebted for future support. To be from necessity industrious, she did not regret, having always accustomed herself to habits of employments; but it was to encounter strangers, and to be subjected to their dominion and caprice in a dependant state, that she most dreaded; her fortitude being weakened by sorrow and disappointment, and from having been taught to expect a very different fate, or to have gained a protector in Montague Glenholme, who once she reflected with acute pain, loved her with the fondest affection.

Her youth and beauty, which shone conspicuous, though melancholy and indisposition apparently oppressed her, forcibly interested her fellow travellers in her favour; consisting of an old lady, her daughter, about thirty, with a child of nine years of age, and an elderly gentleman. They conducted themselves with politeness and compassionate good-nature to Amelrosa, which are rarely to be met with

with in a conveyance of this description; and were such respectable people, that she congratulated herself in being so fortunate as to meet with these quiet, amiable companions, in her present state of mind, which ill calculated her to encounter vulgar or boisterous characters.

The gentleman seemed quite pleased with her; and being of a frank disposition, gave her a history of himself, quite entertaining; and inquiring where she was going, which she informed him was to a village about three miles from Charmouth, in Dorsetshire, said he only lived six miles from that spot himself, and should be very happy as well as his wife, if she would do them the favour to sleep that night at their house, as it would be more convenient for her, the stage nearly passing the door, and he would himself see her home the next morning in his one-horse chaise.

Amelrosa thanked him, but declined his

obliging proposal, saying, she could not accept it, as she was expected at Stoke Morton, and would occasion some disappointment, if she did not proceed directly to Farmer Heartwell's. This answer prevented his urging her any more; but he continued his attentions, and every time they got out of the stage, would carry a small box of the most valuable articles she possessed, which she never suffered to be out of her sight, and carried inside the coach for security. The ladies were equally polite; and being necessitated to converse with her companions, this added to the novelty of the journey, never having travelled through that part of England before, amused her, and caused a temporary oblivion of her misfortunes.

When they reached Salisbury, she was charmed with the neatness and cleanliness of that city; and the lightness and elegance of the spire of the venerable cathedral, inspired her with admiration; but the surrounding

rounding country for some miles she did not admire, from the small quantity of trees scattered over it, as she was partial to rich woods and groves to diversify the scene. The dreariness of Salisbury Plain, impressed her with gloomy ideas, and the chalky soil had not such a pleasing appearance, she thought, as the black or red earth of other places through which she had travelled. The snow-white cottages, however, struck her as extremely pretty.

They proceeded to Blandford, Dorchester, and several other places, till they came within some distance of Charmouth; and the country in that situation highly pleased her, as the coach drove by the side of lofty hills, and appeared, should it by any accident overset, as if it would be precipitated into the beautiful and fertile vallies beneath; for a very low and slight fence could not retard its progress downwards. The preceding parts of Dorsetshire she had passed through were fine, open, and cul-

tivated, with a distant view of the sea; yet were not so well clothed with trees, nor had she previously perceived such picturesque dales.

The gentleman, to their regret, now left them, and Amelrosa entered Charmouth with the ladies only, (who were going as far as Honiton) and thought it a very neat pleasant place, delightfully situated, commanding a view of the sea and a charming country. Several ragged boys and girls came running barefooted by the side of the coach, holding out shells, sea-weed, and curious pebbles, entreating the passengers to purchase them. Amelrosa distributed some halfpence among them; the other ladies followed her example, and all expressed their concern, that the parents of these children should suffer them to lead a life thus idle, wretched, and unprofitable; which must ultimately tend to their getting bad habits, and prove their ruin. The ladies, who told her they frequently travelled

led that road, asserted it was customary for them, constantly to watch for every carriage that passed, and importune the travellers in a similar manner. They were very fine children, but sun-burnt to a dark brown, though naturally fair; and their light hair scorched with the sun, stood almost erect on their heads, and resembled dried hay or flax. Sometimes, the ladies said, they had girls of fourteen or fifteen, acting the same part, and equally ragged, without shoes or stockings.

The stage now stopped and set Amelrosa down at a mean inn, where a respectable looking old man, with white hair and a placid benevolent countenance, was standing at the door. Seeing her alight, and arrived at the time mentioned in her letter, this old man, who was Farmer Heartwell, introduced himself to her, concluding she was the young lady he expected, as she answered to the description Lucy had given him of her. His exterior was mild and

prepossessing, and pleased Amelrosa so much, that she was delighted at his being there thus opportunely to receive her; but observed, that he seemed to regard her with an earnest look of surprise.

A horse with a pillion was immediately led out of the stable, and being assisted to mount it, Heartwell, who got up to ride before, placed her little box in front; and one of his labourers that had accompanied him, taking her trunk on his shoulders, (as she had left every thing she did not absolutely want under the care of Mr. Melville,) in this procession they proceeded to Stoke Morton.

This village consisted of about a dozen cottages and a country church. It was interspersed with orchards, gardens, and elm trees, above which the steeple of the church rose, and at a little distance looked like a small inhabited wood. Farmer Heartwell's habitation was at the extremity

mity of the village, with none of the other cottages near it; and was the most romantic, pretty, rural dwelling she had ever beheld. It was a clean white building, one story high, with antique casements and a large porch at the door, filled on each side with fine myrtles and geraniums in pots. Round the lower casements sweet briar, scented peas, and clustering roses, diffused delicious fragrance; while a mantling vine luxuriantly spread its bright green foliage and curling tendrils to the top of the thatched roof, and in autumn its purple branches peeped from beneath the shadowing leaves.

A small paved court was in front, for the convenience of coming to the door on horseback in bad weather, and on each side was a neat railed garden, with several beehives in it, and filled with a profusion of beautiful and curious flowers, plants, and shrubs of every description; Heartwell being an excellent gardener, and when

when he had leisure, the culture of them was his highest gratification. He was very much beloved and respected in the neighbourhood, and for many miles round; and if his acquaintance, or any of the neighbouring gentry procured any exotics, they always sent some of them to him, knowing his taste for gardening.

The farm-yard was at the back of the cottage, and opened with a wicket into sloping orchards of different fruit trees; and likewise extended by the house, fencing one side of the garden. Mrs. Heartwell, a good-looking dark woman, came out into the court, to welcome Amelrosa, and helping her off the horse, expressed great joy at seeing her, and asked a hundred questions in a breath, as her husband had previously done, respecting their daughter Lucy. Her box and trunk being brought in, Mrs. Heartwell bustled to prepare some tea for her, as it was near six o'clock; which having drank, she felt much

much refreshed, and was more enabled to converse with Mrs. Heartwell, who though a good woman, was an incessant gossip; and rejoiced did she feel when the hour arrived for her to retire to rest.

To her bed-chamber she was conducted through a door in the kitchen, that opened on a flight of stairs almost perpendicular. The walls were white-washed; the flooring very much worn, with several holes in it; and as there was no ceiling underneath, she could see in two or three places, into the parlour below, which very much diverted her, as well as the bedstead, which was an ancient half-tester, with scanty curtains that would not draw, and the bed flatter and harder than a good mattrass. These accommodations were not calculated for a luxurious person; but though homely, every thing was perfectly clean, and the lovely Amelrosa, after recommending herself to the protection of her Almighty Father, flung her exhausted frame on this hard

hard and humble bed; and happy to be with good and kind people, found sweet and tranquil repose, which had often fled from her when surrounded with every elegance and comfort.

Early the next morning she arose, awakened by unusual sounds; the matin song of the feathered inhabitants of the adjacent embowering trees, the lowing of the cattle, and combined noise of the poultry, all conspiring to banish slumber. Opening the casement which looked into the farmyard, as there were two in her chamber, one which looked forwards, and the other to the back of the cottage, the fragrant coolness of the morning air felt quite reviving, from having been so long confined in the smoky atmosphere of the metropolis. A sturdy apprentice girl was milking the cows, and judging that the new milk and the smell of the cows would be beneficial to her health, she went down into the farmyard, and drinking some, amused herself afterwards

afterwards in feeding the poultry and walking with Mrs. Heartwell over her little domain, who was proud to exhibit it to her.

Breakfast was prepared for Amelrosa in the parlour, with walls white-washed like her chamber, and decorated with paltry prints and sea-weed framed. In the style of former times, was a seat under the casement, and on this seat and a ledge outside the casement, were placed myrtles, geraniums, and other exotics, that filled the air with a refreshing perfume. Cockle and limpet shells were ranged round the plants to cover the earth by way of decoration; these shells being picked by some of the family from the sea shore. As she passed the kitchen she saw the apprentice and two labourers sitting at a large wooden table, and Mr. and Mrs. Heartwell breakfasting at a smaller one.

Amelrosa was quite pleased with the rural

rural life she led, and had not been above three weeks at Stoke Morton, when the rose of health, notwithstanding her melancholy, began once more to blush on her beauteous cheek. Her blue eyes again shone with their native lustre, beneath the dark fringed curtains that shaded them, and her exquisitely turned form to recover its roundness.

Simply attired, with a large straw hat to screen her from the fervid beams of the sun, tied down with lilach ribbon, she would ramble into the surrounding country, with no other companion than Tray, a little terrier dog, given by Mr. Heartwell, that she became very fond of, as it attached itself to her. Frequently would she climb the steep hills and admire the extensive and pleasing prospect, or wander through the varied recesses of some woodland retirement, or unfrequented romantic dell; and when tired, seated on a mossy bank with wild flowers growing round, or at the foot of

of a majestic oak, listen pensively to the singing of the birds in the leafy groves and mazy copse; or to the murmuring of a rivulet that gently flowed and diffused itself through an enamelled mead.

The faithful dog lay crouched at her feet, and warned her of the approach of any stranger, that rarely, however, visited these solitary haunts, and were no other than clowns or country girls. Less frequently she would wander to the sea side, which was only a mile distant, and strolling over the sand, gather shells and sea weed. Often did she climb the proud heights of the projecting cliffs that frowned upon the sea-green waves below, and contemplate the grand expanse of water that made the head giddy to look at for a length of time.

Sometimes seated on the margin of the ocean, where the tide came dashing in, she would reflect with pity, on the frequent unfortunate fate of the industrious mariner, who,

who after toiling many years on the vast bosom of the deep, finds oftimes in its turbulent domain, a watery grave. Reclining on the craggy point of a rock that conveniently jutted out, with pleasure she beheld the laborious fishermen drawing the Seine, while their wives and the neighbouring rustics anxiously waited on the beach to witness the produce of the net. The setting sun shone on the water, and glittered on the silver skins of the fish as they tumbled on the sand; which added to the motley group of men and women, the distant prospect of several vessels, with fishing smacks nearer the shore, formed altogether, a pleasing and interesting picture. Returning home, she frequently met the country people going down to the strand with baskets, to purchase fish, and always replied with the greatest affability to them, when they asked her ignorantly, what success the fishermen had that evening.

In one of her rambles, endeavouring to discover

discover a new walk, Amelrosa wandered till she drew near extensive plantations of towering elms, and a path being cut through them, the shade and coolness, as the weather was exceeedingly warm, invited her to proceed. After walking a little way, the ground descended gradually beneath the shelter of the trees, till she found herself in a small glen, in the middle of which stood a large ancient stone mansion, with a thick plantation of yew, fir, cypress, and various other trees encompassing it, which cast a deep and gloomy shade, as they waved their close and sombre branches around, apparently preventing a clear light from darting into the small paned heavy windows of this mournful abode.

Not a sound disturbed the reigning stillness, except the constant cawing of the rooks, who had built their nests in the solemn oaks and lofty elms; and the uninterrupted quietness of this spot, would have inclined Amelrosa to believe it was unin-

uninhabited, had not a mastiff, chained at the massy door, growled at her approaching footsteps. Sadness and terror not to be repressed, stole over her, inspired by this lonely and dismal place; and she quickly retreated with more haste than she had advanced.

Mrs. Heartwell being busy in the dairy, Mr. Heartwell was sitting alone in the parlour when she returned home; and mentioning where she had been, inquired of the farmer, if he knew who resided in that melancholy habitation. "From your description, young lady," replied Heartwell, "I fancy you have been to Gregstone-hall, the principal dwelling, at present, of Lord Rossmore, the best and indeed I may almost say, the only friend I ever had; and I can never think of him but my heart overflows with gratitude —I will disclose his story to you, my dear young lady, because I know you are prudent and good. But first I must request you will carefully preserve

preserve the secret which I confide, from having a high opinion of you; as it is known to few people out of his own family, besides my wife and myself.—Though it is attended with pain, I always feel pleasure in conversing about him."

Heartwell, after this preface, acquainted her with the commencement of his life, which she had heard from Lucy; and afterwards continued to relate, that as he was travelling, about twelvemonths after he had inlisted for a soldier, through a solitary road in Kent at the close of day, he suddenly beheld two footpads, on the point of murdering a young gentleman they had dismounted, over whom they held drawn cutlasses; and one of the wretches was saying to his companion, that after plundering, it would be necessary to dispatch him, as dead men tell no tales.

The young gentleman's servant lay weltering in his blood, from several wounds given

given by the villains; and Heartwell, taking out a pistol, fired at one of the ruffians before they were aware, who instantly fell, and he then sprung on the other with his bayonet.—Guilt, and terror at the fate of his associate, inclined the footpad to make but a feeble resistance against such an unexpected antagonist; and the young gentleman, who appeared nearly eighteen, now assisted Heartwell to secure him; and they proceeded together with all possible expedition to the first town, to get relief for the wounded servant, and to place the ruffian in custody.

Fortunately they had not gone far before they met some sturdy labourers, who willingly took possession of the cruel footpad; and returning now they had got rid of him to the spot they had left, for the young gentleman's horses, they mounted them; and galloping to the neighbouring town, procured a post-chaise, in which they returned again to the place where the robbery

bery had been attempted to be committed, and found, to their extreme satisfaction, the servant's wounds were not dangerous; but the robber was gone for ever, having received the contents of the pistol through his head.

Every thing being arranged for the comfort of the servant, who was the young gentleman's groom, and the surviving footpad in prison, where he was likely soon to receive the reward of his crimes; the young gentleman, who was indeed Lord Rossmore, inquired of his deliverer, what service he could render him for the essential obligation he had received.

Learning in consequence of this, that he had disobliged his friends by entering for a soldier, of which life he was heartily tired, his lordship almost immediately, by speaking to his father, Lord Cliffden, procured his discharge; and at his own request took him to live with him as his valet,

though he treated him with distinction superior to what those people generally receive, and confided his most secret affairs and thoughts to him; his grateful heart conceiving a warm affection for one who had saved him from a shocking death.

Heartwell continued some years with him, and was most faithfully attached to his master, whom he quitted, however, just as his lordship was going abroad on his travels, to marry the present Mrs. Heartwell, as a warm regard subsisted between them; which could alone have induced him to leave Lord Rossmore. His lordship completely furnished his house for him, stocked his farm, which was very extensive and high rented, and presented him likewise with five hundred pounds, saying, if ever he wanted money, he desired he would apply to him, and he should always have what he could spare.

This generosity Heartwell was most grateful

grateful for, knowing he must have taken this money from his private purse, and that it was probably the additional sum his father had given him to purchase any curiosity that pleased him while abroad; as the Earl did not, in general, very liberally supply him, being of a parsimonious disposition; and in fact, as Heartwell conjectured, he had actually presented his son with a thousand pounds, to dispose on his travels in what manner best pleased him.

With respect to Heartwell, fond as he was of Lord Rossmore, whose life he had saved, the Earl of Cliffden considered it was a sufficient return of gratitude for the service he had done, that his son took him to live with him, and would never have thought of rendering him any further benefit.

"Lord Rossmore had been absent two years on his travels," continued the good

farmer, addressing Amelrosa, "when he returned unexpectedly home; and no sooner did this welcome news reach me, than I hastened to Cliffden Castle, the family seat in Devonshire, to behold my beloved master.

"He was, when I had last seen him, the fairest picture of manly beauty that ever these eyes beheld. Though very fair, with blue eyes, he had not the least of a womanish look; for a handsome aquiline nose, gave a dignity to his countenance, which expressed at once, grandeur, condescension, and humanity; whilst to the superior height and elegance of his figure, was added a noble and commanding air. Indeed, I never saw any countenance that resembled his, particularly at that time, so much as your's does, young lady; making allowance for the difference between a male and female style of face; and that prejudiced me in your favor, when I met you at Charmouth.

"How-

" Howeve, ro go on with my story, arriving at the Castle, I expected to see Lord Rossmore looking as well as when he left England ; but, good God, what a change ! That handsome face was meager, wan, and dejected. Perceiving by my looks, I noticed, and was unhappy at the alteration, his poor heart soon unfolded itself to mine, which partook of all its cares.

" Well, as I was going to say, my lord informed me, that on his travels he arrived at some city, the name of which I forget, and in what country it was ; and was received as a visitor at the house of a nobleman, to whom he had letters of recommendation from his father, who was acquainted with him. Here he was introduced to a young lady, that he described to me as the best and most beautiful creature in the world ; and they fell, as it happened unluckily, desperately in love with each other. She was an only child, and heiress to a large fortune ; and the noble-

man where my master was on a visit, was in love with her likewise. He was a widower, and wished to marry her, as well from admiration of her person, as for her fortune. My lord, as lovers are generally quick-sighted, discovered this, and apprehensive of losing her, on hearing her father approved the nobleman for a son-in-law, persuaded Elmira, the young lady, to marry him privately, and the ceremony was accordingly performed by a catholic priest in their interest.

"Their union had taken place but three months, when Lord Rossmore received a letter from a friend of his father's, saying he was dangerously ill, and wished to see him instantly. Naturally dutiful and affectionate, in great distress of mind, he set off immediately for England, having comforted Elmira with the assurance, that he would soon return and claim her as his wife, which he could not then do, fearful of increasing his father's danger, now he was

was indisposed ; as he was of a violent temper and would irritate his complaint with passion, if he knew he had contracted a marriage, however advantageous, without consulting him.

" Lord Rossmore on his arrival, had the pleasure of finding the Earl quite well ; but at the same time, the severe mortification to be informed, that his illness was a mere pretext to bring him home ; some officious and malignant person having conveyed intelligence by letter, to Lord Cliffden, that his son was going to disgrace himself by marrying a low, mean, and infamous woman, advising the Earl to invent some excuse to make him return to England ; which advice his lordship instantly followed.

" In vain did Lord Rossmore represent he was deceived ; that the lady to whom he was attached, possessed family and fortune : he might with equal success have preached

to the winds, as he would neither believe him, or give up the author of his information; whom my lord suspected to be the nobleman that had admired his wife. To acknowledge his marriage at present, while Lord Cliffden was in this ill-humour, he found impossible, being intirely dependent on him in respect to pecuniary matters; and Elmira, though heiress to an immense fortune, would not be able to receive any part of it during her father's life, without his consent; which it was very improbable they would gain, since he favored Lord Rossmore's rival, and would be extremely displeased to learn she had married in a clandestine manner.

"He was in the most distracted state of mind, in consequence of these reflections, when I first saw him after his arrival, and relieved his uneasiness by placing confidence in me, and asking my advice how to act. On such a delicate point, I felt myself unequal to the task, but acquitted myself

myself to the best of my weak abilities, and with the most sincere wish for his welfare."

"Soon after he formed the resolution to affirm to the Earl, that he never would marry any other woman than Elmira; and the rage of Lord Cliffden at this declaration, was almost inconceivable; but when he became more calm, and perceived his son was so ardently devoted to the lady, fearful he might in a fit of despair, attempt something fatal, he was at length prevailed to promise, that if in a twelvemonth, Lord Rossmore continued to persevere in the same affection for Elmira, he would no longer withhold his consent, on condition he remained quietly during that period at Cliffden Castle.

"To this proposal, though impatient to be united to her he loved, my lord consented, not being able to procure more advantageous terms, and wrote directly to

inform Elmira of them; tenderly recommending her to resist with fortitude, any offers of marriage that would incur her father's anger by her refusal; as twelvemonths would soon pass away, and give her an affectionate and adoring husband.

"To this letter, and several others which he wrote, he never received any answer, which filled him with anxiety; but five months after he had parted from her, one at length reached him, in which she mentioned having wrote several times, but not hearing from him, concluded her letters had been intercepted; therefore contrived to send this by another hand, on whose fidelity she could rely. An event, which would have given her pleasure in any other circumstances, she now informed him, afflicted her most poignantly, which was being far advanced in a situation that would cause her soon to become a mother; and should it be discovered by her father, or the nobleman she had been vehemently urged,

urged, since his departure, to marry, she dreaded the consequence of the rage of the first, at her disobedient and secret engagement; and the disappointment of the last, whose disposition she had been informed, was bad and revengeful. Hitherto, Elmira continued, she had successfully concealed her situation, and proposed, within a few weeks of the approaching alarming moment, to ask permission to visit a particular friend, her only confidant, where she could secretly be brought to-bed; pretending to be afflicted during the visit, with some other indisposition, and thus deceive her father and detested lover.

"This letter nearly overset the reason of Lord Rossmore, at learning that the woman he adored, was in so much affliction, and exposed (should any accident reveal her being on the point of giving birth to a child) to the anger of a severe father, and the revenge of a jealous lover, without the soothing tenderness of a husband to con-

sole her; for, in the thoughtlessness of youth, he had never considered, any more than herself, what might be the consequence of this imprudent marriage. His generous and humane soul was violently agitated, at the bare idea of the cruelties and insults his Elmira would suffer; and wild with his tender and impetuous feelings on her account, he rushed with the open letter in his hand, to the apartment of his father. 'Read there, my Lord,' he exclaimed, 'and permit me to go to that suffering angel, or you have no longer a son.' Lord Cliffden was disagreeably surprised on reading the letter, but treated his application with contempt; and finding him determined, notwithstanding all he said, to fly to Elmira, ordered him to be confined in one of the towers of the Castle.

"Seven or eight months after this affair took place, one cold stormy night in the depth of winter, when the rain beat against the

the windows, and the northern blast howled loudly round the house; my wife and myself were seated by a cheerful fire, talking of our dear young lord, and wondering we had not seen or heard from him, since I left him happily reconciled to the Earl; when our discourse was interrupted, by a loud ringing at the bell of the outer gate, and whilst we were expressing our pity for the person who was obliged to encounter the weather on such a tempestuous night, our man introduced a gentleman, muffled up in a slouched hat and great coat, drenched with rain; which suddenly throwing off, discovered to my astonished eyes, the well known features of Lord Rossmore.

"Alas, how changed! if when I saw him last, I found him altered; how trifling was the alteration, compared to his present appearance! reduced to a mere skeleton, and trembling and exhausted, he wrung my hand, and sunk into a chair. My wife hastened

hastened for some brandy and dry clothes; and when he had somewhat recovered, he related to me the cruel treatment he had received from his savage father, which had reduced him to his present deplorable state; and the strict confinement in which he was held, operating with the constant agony of mind he felt, respecting Elmira, threatened to subvert his senses. However, he contrived at length to escape, by offering a large bribe to one of his keepers, who had compassion likewise for him; 'And before the morning dawns,' said Lord Rossmore, addressing me, 'from the fear of pursuit, and some base scheme of my father's to get me into his power, I shall set forward on my journey to my beloved Elmira; and on my return to England, shall place her with you, till I can procure some method of supporting her, as my father, I fear, will never relent; but I have friends to whom I can apply, when my mind is at ease, by having, what is dearer to me than life, in my possession, with the pleasing

pleasing certainty, that no human power can deprive me of her.'

"My heart dilated with joy," continued the good farmer, "at being able and thought worthy enough, to afford an asylum to the honored lady of my young master and benefactor; which I warmly expressed, and afforded him apparently the utmost pleasure. When the hour came for his departure, which all my entreaties for him to wait till he was more recovered, could not retard; I beheld him depart with a sad foreboding, though he promised to hasten to me on his return.

"Lord Cliffden was in the greatest distress at his flight, and sent repeatedly, knowing his regard for me, to inquire if I knew any thing about him; but I cautiously disguised having even seen him, that his lady might not be molested when resident with us.

"Several

"Several months passed away, during which period I heard nothing of my lord; when unexpectedly one morning, I received an express from the Earl, desiring me to repair instantly to the Castle, in a carriage he had sent to convey me there. I felt a repugnance at entering again, that scene of tyranny and oppression to Lord Rossmore; but conjecturing the occasion on which my presence was required, related to him, I did not hesitate to obey Lord Cliffden; and when I was introduced to him, observed that his countenance wore the deepest expression of grief I ever witnessed, with the exception of my lord's.

"Heartwell, said he, with unusual affability, 'you are attached to my son. He is dangerously ill, but refuses to see me. Go directly to him; tell him to command every thing I possess; though that will poorly atone for my injustice, which has reduced him to the brink of the grave. He is now at Dorchester, at an inn, where the

conflict

conflict of his mind caused by some dreadful events has produced a fever. Fly, hasten to him, and communicate as soon as possible to me if there are any favorable symptoms. Gracious Heaven though I have deserved it, let not my old age be childless, who hoped to have seen my grand children !'

" Ill as he had behaved, I could not avoid feeling compassion for him, and flew with the hope of relieving his fears, as well as from the impetuosity of my own feelings to my beloved master. I found him in a raging delirium, in which he incessantly called on his dear Elmira, his father and some other persons whose names I forget. Immediately I sent for the most skilful physicians, and with their aid and my own unwearied attention, he was fortunately restored to health, to the extreme joy of his father and all who knew him. But how sadly altered, scarcely bearing the most trifling resemblance to his former self.

" A deep

"A deep melancholy seized possession of him, which no circumstances or time have since been able to eradicate; occasioned by discovering that the unfortunate Elmira was delivered of a female infant, of which he could gain no intelligence, notwithstanding his researches, than that it was supposed to have died, and its hapless mother two months after its birth forced to give her hand to the nobleman who loved her.

"Previously they dissolved her marriage with Lord Rossmore, pretending it was illegal, which had such a fatal effect on her delicate constitution, added to the jealousy and ill usage of her detested husband, from whom she did not conceal her aversion, that overwhelmed by a complication of misery, she expired of a broken heart three days before the arrival of her faithful Rossmore.

"His lordship, martyr as he was to sorrow

sorrow and distraction, at this intelligence; yet sought after her husband in a paroxysm of despair, convinced he was the person who had treacherously informed his father he was attached to a low woman, and was determined he should expiate his crimes on the point of his sword; but the cowardly soul of his injurer shrunk from his just resentment, and he concealed himself, till Lord Rossmore, worn out with grief and disappointment, bade adieu to the fatal shores that had produced him such keen and irremediable anguish.

"He was travelling to the abode of Heartwell, when he was suddenly and violently seized with a dangerous fever, caused by the repeated and furious conflicts his mind had sustained. His servant instantly sent a courier to Lord Cliffden, who arrived at a moment when one of his delirious fits had left him, and he lay in a fearful stupor and knew not any object around him: his eyes were glaring and fixed, and looked exceed-

exceedingly large from his face being meager, sallow and livid. Cold sweats hung on his clammy forehead, and the Earl with horror and contrition contemplated his victim; learning from the servant, the cause that had reduced him to such an affecting situation, and wished but too late, he had rather promoted than prevented the union of his son and the unfortunate Elmira,—now reposed from all persecution in the last retreat of the wretched, whither her husband soon promised to follow her.

"Lord Cliffden requested his servant would mention to him, at the first interval of reason he had, that his father wished to see him; which accordingly the man did, but the name of his father brought so many cruel recollections, that in the anguish of his soul, he sent word he could never see him more; and was again seized with delirium.

"Miserable at the effect his message had pro-

produced, the Earl made no further attempt to see him, but departed for the Castle, and as the only resource and hope, sent for Heartwell as before mentioned, on whose attention to his son, knowing his attachment, he could depend.

"When Lord Rossmore was entirely recovered from his illness, he requested his father would give him Greystone-hall for his residence, its gloomy and retired situation suiting the present unhappy state of his mind, which had received an incurable wound; and from that period, excepting the two years he passed in France, during which time my misfortunes happened, (said Heartwell,) he has never quitted it for a longer interval than a week or fortnight. He placed me, after being ruined in his absence, in this small farm, paid my debts, and to him indeed I have twice owed every thing, and he is continually making me presents. He does not know Lucy is in service, if he did he would insist on paying for

for her board at home; but I conceal it, not chusing to be always encroaching on his goodness.

"I shall never forget his first coming to see me after being settled at Greystone-hall: he had not been long recovered, and one of my children was then in the cradle. No sooner did he cast his eyes on the infant than he gave a deep groan, struck his forehead, and saying, with distraction in his looks,—'Such might have been Elmira's, but for thee, my father!' like a madman he ran out of the house, leaving us all terrified beyond expression.

"From that hour he never has approached my dwelling, though I go frequently to see him; for he cannot bear the sight of a child or woman, such an effect has misfortune made on a mind of so much feeling and affection, that the sight of them reminds him so forcibly of his sufferings, that his intellects will not support the shock

shock, and he is quite deranged for the moment—The few female servants he keeps are ordered never to appear before him, and when they see him coming, get out of the way as fast as possible.

"To his father he was almost immediately reconciled, his heart being too noble to cherish resentment, except when under the influence of passion; and the Earl, notwithstanding he laments the injury he has done him, has resumed his parsimony, and allows him but a scanty income, for a man of his rank, and sole heir to the rich possessions of Lord Cliffden. But even from this narrow allowance he contrives to perform numberless acts of benevolence; and soon I expect his power will be more enlarged, for the last account I received of the Earl he was in a bad state of health, and not likely to live long, being near seventy—which is an age when it is not probable that human nature can struggle long with any disease. Lord Rossmore keeps

keeps very little company, merely one or two particular friends, who come to see him in the course of the year; as no other person would like to visit at a house, that has the air of a sepulchre."

Heartwell here concluded the history of Lord Rossmore, which beguiled Amelrosa of many tears; and the good farmer's had frequently flowed during his narrative. "Never," said she, addressing him, "did I feel so much interested for any stranger, as for your excellent and unfortunate lord. I think, at this moment, I could almost give the world, if I possessed it, to see him. Is there any chance of it, do you imagine? as I am certain I should know him from your description. Does he ever walk out?"

Heartwell smiled at this interrogation, and replied, "Sometimes; but always chuses the most retired spots; and if he were to meet, would not look at you; there-

therefore you would not be able to distinguish his eyes, which are the finest ever placed in a mortal's head; more like your's than any body's I ever beheld; and it would not be worth while to look at him, unless you could see them, though he is still uncommonly handsome. But his countenance wears the marks of care and sorrow, and is always gloomy, with a frowning brow, from deep thought; which makes him look older than he is, being only forty-three years of age. Perhaps, he may leave home for a week or ten days, as he generally does, once or twice in the summer, and I can then take you to see the house, for he has a great many fine pictures, and amongst the rest, I believe, the portrait of his lady; at least, there is a picture in the library of a young lady, that he sets before for hours, and is often seen by his principal attendant, weeping when he looks at it; but I dare not ask if it is Lady Rossmore, from the fear of re-reviving the remembrance of his misfortunes."

Amelrosa thanked Heartwell, and said, she should like much to see the house, and he now left her to look after his labourers.

CHAP. VI.

——————— The worldly-wise,
Who slowly climb by cold degrees to friendship,
Such are my scorn; at sight of Amelrosa,
Affection from my breast sprung forth at once
Mature as Pallas from the brain of Jove.

Cumberland.

SOME days had elapsed, since Amelrosa's conversation with Heartwell, when one serene evening he came to her, and agreeably surprised her, by saying, "If you would like to take a walk over to Greystone-hall, I will accompany you; having

having just met one of the servants, who tells me his master went from home yesterday, and is expected to continue absent a long time."

Amelrosa gladly assented to this proposal, and with the worthy farmer for her companion, and her favorite Tray, proceeded to the Hall. They walked slowly through the grove and avenue of trees, speaking but little to each other, as the gloominess of the scene impressed the mind with an involuntary melancholy, till they reached the mansion of sorrow, Stillness reigned throughout, which was interrupted by the mastiff, who began to bark at Tray and Amelrosa; but knowing Heartwell, was soon quieted, and they entered a spacious hall, without seeing any person, hung round with a number of natural curiosities; different animals stuffed, birds in cases, insects; the domestic implements, dress, and offensive weapons of various savage nations, with several fire-arms and swords, used by the English and other Europeans.

"This uncommon and curious assemblage, would make a stranger conclude, on his first entrance," said Amelrosa to Mr. Heartwell, "that he was visiting the habitation of some celebrated philosopher;" "And a very reasonable conclusion, in my opinion," he rejoined; shewing her, as she spoke, into the drawing-room: the most cheerful apartment this gloomy abode contained, from its commanding a lively and pleasing prospect. It was ornamented with very capital pictures; but most of them were painted from melancholy and affecting subjects, and involuntarily suggested the idea, as they inspired pensive reflections, that the selector of them must be inclined to sadness.

They now visited the library, which was decorated and fitted up with taste, containing a valuable collection of books; but had a solitary gloomy air, from the windows looking into a small wood of fir, willow, and laurel trees, interspersed with the arbutus

arbutus or strawberry tree, and a variety of beautiful and curious shrubs. Eagerly Amelrosa advanced to the portrait, which Heartwell had mentioned he conjectured to have been drawn for Lady Rossmore, and her admiration and attention were instantly fixed on it.

Elmira appeared to have been about fifteen years of age, when the picture was painted, and was formed with such exquisite perfection, that the severest criticism could here find no scope for censure. Her features were correctly regular; yet so animated and expressive was her countenance, that the eye unwillingly turned away from the bewitching grace that attracted it. Her jet black hair was fastened behind with a comb; but some negligent ringlets had apparently escaped from it, and with a pleasing carelessness waved on her fine turned shoulders. A tint of the wild rose glowed on her round cheek, and her complexion was the clearest brown. She was

habited in a Spanish dress of pale pink, and with one of her beautiful arms gracefully throwing back a transparent white lace veil, that partly fell over her lovely form in cobweb folds.

Amelrosa felt a pang at quitting this enchanting picture, when Heartwell asked if she would not go into another apartment; and as she gazed for the last time, her eyes filled with tears, at the remembrance of Elmira's unhappy destiny, and lost in thought, followed the good farmer into the print room. It was hung round with the finest engravings; and after viewing them, she sat down to rest herself, being tired, and throwing off her large hat, began conversing with Heartwell on what she had seen. In the midst of this conversation, somebody was heard ascending the stairs, the door opened, and Tray ran barking towards a gentleman in the meridian of life; who advanced into the middle of the room and started, trembled, whilst a convulsive emotion

emotion was diffused over his countenance, at the sight of Amelrosa.

His personal appearance bore a strong resemblance to the description she had received of Lord Rossmore, with the only difference, that he was even more noble and interesting, than her youthful and luxuriant fancy had pourtrayed, and the confused countenance of Heartwell, who was for some time struck dumb with astonishment, plainly evinced she had conjectured right, before he convinced her, by stammering out an apology. While he spoke, his lordship had conquered his feelings, and earnestly gazed at Amelrosa, though in such a manner, as not to offend her delicacy.

Never indeed, had her beauty appeared more irresistibly attractive. Her skin of the purest white, was embellished by a soft blush on her cheeks of a lovely vermillion hue, at the idea of having intruded on

Lord Rossmore. Dark eye-lashes shaded her eyes of the finest blue, that were generally penetrating and sparkling; but now, from timidity, meek and languishing; while the rich tresses of her nut-brown hair waved on her polished forehead, and were negligently, but tastefully arranged.

Lord Rossmore spoke to Heartwell in a kind and friendly manner, requesting him not to be under any uneasiness. His voice was mournful and low, but had something fascinating in it; and addressing Amelrosa, as Heartwell had said, as an apology, she came to look at the pictures; he begged to know if she approved them. She replied in the affirmative; but the sound of her voice, though inexpressibly sweet, seemed to affect him in an extraordinary manner; for he turned paler than before, and placing his hand on his forehead, was apparently lost in ruminating on some disagreeable subject.

Amelrosa

Amelrosa motioned to Heartwell, that she wished to go; but his lordship perceiving it, entreated he might not hurry her away, and that she would take some refreshment after her walk: however, she declined his politeness, and taking her leave, attended by Heartwell, walked through the avenue, when accidentally looking back, she saw his lordship at the window surveying them, and hastily averted her head.

When they had left the environs of Greystone-hall, Heartwell expressed his surprise at the polite attention she had received from Lord Rossmore, who had not, he was convinced, with his own inclination, spoke so much, or shewed such civility to any woman for these eighteen years; for, if by accident, he was in company with ladies, he would rush abruptly from them without speaking. It was very provoking, he added, that his lordship should come home unexpectedly just at that time; for

though he was too amiable to find fault, he was apprehensive it was not agreeable; however, he should go as soon as possible, and make a better excuse than his surprise had suffered him to do then.

The next morning on his return from Greystone-hall, where in consequence of this resolution he had been, he told Amelrosa with a cheerful countenance, that Lord Rossmore was quite charmed with her manners and appearance, and asking him numberless questions respecting her, was surprised to find she resided at his cottage. He wished likewise to be acquainted with your age; and when I told him about nineteen or twenty, he sighed deeply: and if I thought it possible for my lord ever to be in love again, I should think he was struck with you. "Indeed, I wish he may be in love with her," rejoined Mrs. Heartwell, who was present. "It would be a fine thing for you, my dear Miss," addressing Amelrosa, "to be married to his lordship,

ship, for he will be very rich when his father, the old lord dies. To be sure, he is double your age; but then he is handsome and good, which makes up for it; and, my daughter Lucy says you have known a deal of trouble; and people must not be so particular in chusing a husband, when that is the case. If I was a young woman, I would sooner have him than any of your flirting young fellows; and you'd presently cure him of his melancholy."

Amelrosa smiled at these observations of the good woman, which amused her; while fully impressed with the conviction that Lord Rossmore, who had been such a prey to sorrow for the loss of his Elmira, would hardly now think of marrying, when his customs and habits must be too well rooted to admit of his changing his situation; and more particularly, to unite himself with any one, where the disparity in their years was so great. Besides, had her heart been disengaged, she would not have

chosen him for a lover, though she felt the utmost admiration for his person and character; but that admiration was mingled with the veneration she could have experienced for a parent, and when she reflected on his unfortunate fate, her warmest interest and compassion were excited.

The weather was now extremely sultry. Scarcely a breeze ruffled the universal calm, and a serene blue tinted the cloudless sky. It was the latter end of August, and the ripened yellow plains demanded the industrious hand to gather in the golden treasures from the soft bending fields of corn. Mr. and Mrs. Heartwell were very much engaged, as the time of harvest was the most important period of the year to them.

Amelrosa accompanied the latter, when she went one afternoon to carry some bread, cheese, and beer, to the reapers. The good woman went on horseback, as the

the corn fields were at some distance, and Amelrosa followed on a little poney she frequently rode, the most gentle animal imaginable, through several shady pleasant lanes leading to the fields.

Heartwell was earnestly employed behind his rough laborious hinds, in building up piles of sheaves, with his countenance cheered at the plenteous prospect before him, that no deluging burst of rain or desolating tempest threatened to destroy. Amelrosa was very busy assisting Mrs. Heartwell to distribute refreshments among the reapers, when they perceived Lord Rossmore walking up the field. He approached near them, and they were surprised at his stopping to speak, contrary to his usual custom, and chatting about the harvest and other rural subjects, he contrived imperceptibly, to lead Amelrosa into conversation, who felt her timidity and reserve, occasioned by what she had heard respecting his shunning women, wear insensibly away.

His

His lordship continued in the field till they mounted their horses to return; and a few days after, as she was looking out of the casement of her bed-chamber, she saw Lord Rossmore advancing towards the cottage. Perceiving she saw him, he made an elegant bow, and turned round the corner which led into the court; and a few minutes after, Mrs. Heartwell came running up, almost breathless, exclaiming, "My dear Miss, my Lord is come to say, that if you chuse to have any of his pictures or drawings to copy, you are heartily welcome: had you not better, my dear, come down and thank his lordship."

Amelrosa confused, yet flattered by this unexpected attention, followed Mrs. Heartwell, and gracefully expressed her acknowledgments for his politeness, and conversed some time with him; during which interval, he pointed out such drawings in his collection, as he thought would improve her to copy; and so pleasing was his

his society, that she separated from him with regret; and in two or three hours he sent his servant with a port-folio, containing the most beautiful landscapes and figures in water colours, which she had not seen at his house.

The harvest being concluded, great rejoicings and festivity took place in the farm-house. At night the long table in the kitchen was spread with a plentiful supper for the reapers. Several joints of meat smoaked on the hospitable board; with fowls, ducks, puddings, apple-pies, and bowls of cream. They quaffed cyder and nut-brown ale, and joy, delight, and unaffected mirth filled each happy rustic's heart, and shone in their ruddy embrowned faces, as they tasted the rewards of their honest labour. They roared, sung, and capered about to the inharmonious strains of an itinerant fidler, who at those festive times came about the country; and it was at an unusual hour the family retired to rest.

From

From the period that Lord Rossmore called at the farm-house, to offer his drawings to Amelrosa, he frequently met her when she walked out, and having thrown himself purposely in her way, always joined and entered into conversation with her; and by degrees, she became so much accustomed to his society, that she was disappointed when she did not meet him. Sometimes he came to the cottage, and would give her instructions in drawing, as he drew in a superior style; and likewise teach her botany, with which she was quite unacquainted.

The alteration that took place for the better in his lordship, his manners being more cheerful, though his appearance continued dejected, gave the highest pleasure to the good Heartwell and his wife; nor could they attribute this change to any other cause than love, which they were rejoiced to witness; not doubting Amelrosa's acceptance of Lord Rossmore, as she always

ways praised him, and was so much his inferior in rank and fortune. It was impossible, they thought, that his lordship could be so often in company with such a beautiful, amiable, and interesting a creature, without being attached to her; and the revolution she had caused in his conduct seemed to confirm it.

In jest and the simplicity of their hearts, they would sometimes call her Lady Rossmore; and though she always appeared to dislike it, they attributed this circumstance to modesty alone, and persevered in their error.

Beneath the humble roof that now sheltered her, Amelrosa's hours glided on in the most calm and contented manner; embittered only when too faithful memory retraced her sorrows, and represented the cruel truth, that Montague was for ever estranged from her. The period, however unwished for, arrived quickly, and with uneasi-

uneasiness she was conscious, that she must again visit the metropolis, and enter on all the busy cares of life. How ardently did she wish she could remain for ever exclud d at Stoke Morton, and continue to soothe the sorrows of Lord Rossmore, who repeatedly assured her, that the melancholy which overwhelmed him, was only alleviated by her society. These assertions she could not avoid crediting, from being acquainted with the difference of his conduct before he knew her; and it was an evident proof he liked her company, by continually seeking it. Reflection and reason whispered to her, it was useless to repine at what was inevitable, and her health being thoroughly established, she felt renewed fortitude to encounter any additional evils and mortifications that might await her.

The six months, at the end of which time she was to receive her legacy, was nearly expired, a fortnight only remaining; and writing to Mr. Melville to procure her a lodging,

a lodging, she proposed setting out in a few days, to the great disappointment and affliction of the good Heartwell and his wife, who had flattered themselves she would never have left them, but as Lady Rossmore; nor was his lordship's concern less, when informed of her intended journey. At the prospect of losing her, the keenness of his sorrow, which was suppressed in her society, again seemed to revive with redoubled anguish; and her astonishment was excessive, when he mentioned his intention of soon visiting London, and begged to know her address, that he might have the pleasure of calling on her.

Amelrosa replied, she did not yet know herself where her residence would be; but he might always hear of her at Mr. Melville's, giving his address. Could she by any excuse have avoided seeing Lord Rossmore, she would have been happy to have availed herself of it, knowing she must be in some dependent situation,

tion, where it would not be agreeable to receive visitors: yet, to return his politeness with rudeness, was impossible; and therefore she was obliged to submit to the disagreeable necessity.

From the inquiries his lordship had made relating to her, he supposed she possessed a slender income, though sufficient to support her, as the farmer and his wife, notwithstanding they had heard from their daughter she had been unfortunate; nevertheless, from not knowing any better, that she had enough to maintain herself; but not equal to what she had been accustomed, or one that appeared to be so much the lady, would not put up with their humble habitation and fare.

Lord Rossmore, from being more acquainted with the world, thought there was some mystery attached to her, which he wished to develop, though convinced it was nothing disgraceful, from the high opinion

opinion he had formed of her worth. In the course of their frequent and familiar conversations, she had never mentioned the name of a single relative or friend she had, and seemed so cautious in speaking of any thing that concerned her own affairs, that it appeared to him rather extraordinary.

When the moment for Almerosa's departure from Stoke-Morton was arrived, with the deepest dejection she took leave of Mr. and Mrs. Heartwell, who were exceedingly grieved at parting from her; and the latter shaking her head, said it was her own fault, for she was sure, if she had chosen to play her cards well, she might have been mistress of Greystone-hall, and they would then have seen her almost every day.

Almerosa at this speech, smiled through the tears that suffused her blue eyes, at quitting a place where she had been so happy, and assured her she was mistaken; but

but the good woman was incredulous. Of his lordship she had taken leave the preceding day, and accepted his chariot to convey her to the stage, as he insisted she should make use of it; and entering the carriage which was to bear her from peace and comparative happiness, without meeting with any particular adventure, arrived in town dejected and unhappy, and repaired to the lodging Mr. Melville had taken for her in South Audley-street.

Here no affectionate friend or relative was waiting to receive her, and her heart felt cold and cheerless. It was the beginning of January, and the weather very severe, having snowed hard during the whole of the journey from Dorsetshire. Her lodging was a very comfortable second floor, and a good fire enlivened the solitary apartment. The people of the house informed her, Mr. Melville would have been ready to receive her, had he known when she would arrive, and intended coming to see

see her in the evening, if business did not prevent him.

This intelligence revived her drooping spirits, and with innate satisfaction she welcomed her worthy friend when he came, who acquainted her, that as the six months would be expired in three days, she would go on the fourth day to the Temple, giving her a direction to Mr. Kennedy's chambers there, as she was to speak to that gentleman about receiving her legacy. "You know him very well," continued Mr. Melville, "having often seen him at Lady Archdale's; and from that circumstance, he will undoubtedly behave with great politeness, and let you have the money without any further trouble, as it is in his power."

He then proceeded to inform Amelrosa, he had within a few days procured a situation for Lucy, as companion to an old lady, who had taken quite a fancy to her, and

and gave her every possible indulgence; which she was delighted to hear, and expected soon to see her, as Mr. Melville said, he had given Lucy her address; and hoped shortly to procure likewise, something advantageous for herself; entreating, that in the meanwhile, she would not yield to melancholy again and injure her beauty, as he had never seen her look so handsome. "I am not afraid of making you vain, by saying so," continued Mr. Melville, "as you have too much sense to be proud of any external advantages."

Amelrosa replied, that in that opinion, she hoped he was correct; but there was one species of flattery she could not resist, which was, to say she possessed real worth and an enlightened mind. Mr. Melville smiled, and saying he was very glad she had given him a caution, as he should avoid raising her vanity; soon after wished her good night.

On

On the day Mr. Melville mentioned, Amelrosa repaired to Mr. Kennedy's chambers in the Temple, having had a very unpleasant walk, as it snowed all the way from South Audley-street; nor could she take a coach, a few shillings only remaining of the twenty pounds she had received of Mr. Melville at Mr. Taylor's, and she did not like to borrow any more, as she was in so short a period to receive her money.

Here, however, a fresh disappointment awaited her, Mr. Kennedy telling her, when introduced to him, that she could not then have an order for it on the banker, and was deficient in the politeness and attention she expected from a gentleman who was well acquainted with Lady Archdale's friendship for her, and from respect to her ladyship's memory, who had conferred many favors on him, should have shewn the utmost civility to one she loved.

Several times he made her dance fruitless attendance on him, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, and that he knew she was too poor to afford a coach; and at length with infinite trouble succeeded, but was necessitated, after walking in the severe frost and snow from South Audley-street, to go to the banker's in the city to receive her legacy.

The first use she made of this money was, to send fifty pounds to pay for her board at Mrs. Stanhope's, and to restore the twenty pounds to Mr. Melville, she had borrowed of him; who having a large family, and practice not so extensive as his merit deserved, was she knew, rather embarrassed for it. These payments reduced her legacy to thirty pounds; and the expences of her lodging, board, and washing, amounting to a guinea and a half every week, she was convinced, when she had been in London a month, that the small sum she possessed, would quickly decrease,

decrease, if she did not with the greatest expedition procure some method of supporting herself. Lucy came as often as she could gain permission, to see her; and though she could not remedy her perplexities, softened them by her kindness and respect.

Amelrosa had flattered herself, that Mr. Melville would hear of some situation for her; but hitherto he had been unsuccessful. Looking, however, accidentally in a newspaper, that lay on a table in the parlour belonging to the mistress of the house, who had asked her to walk in, she saw an advertisement for a governess, and answered it directly. The next day the lady who had advertised, sent for her; having two daughters that she wished to place under her care, and to instruct in the principal accomplishments necessary for children, who are to be well educated; as she was going to reside in a retired part of

the country, where she could not get masters for them.

The prepossessing appearance and distinguished manners that adorned Amelrosa, united with her superior attainments, that surpassed in every respect the other females who had applied, entirely gained the lady's approbation: and having received a favourable character of her from Mr. and Mrs. Melville, she did not hesitate a moment, but instantly engaged her.

This lady, whose name was Skinner, was a Creole, and the wife of a rich West-India merchant, who had lately sailed for Jamaica on some important business. She was a little thin dark woman, with so much the air of a vixen, that could Amelrosa have procured any thing better, and not been apprehensive of pecuniary distress, she would not have engaged herself with her, from her forbidding countenance. Her two daughters resembled their mother in

in person, being very swarthy; but their youth made them look more lively and pleasing. Martha, the eldest, was twelve years of age; and Anne, the youngest, eleven.

A week after this new engagement, Amelrosa accompanied Mrs. Skinner and her children to their country seat, situated in the north of England, in a remote part of Northumberland. The house was a handsome modern edifice, standing on an elevated piece of ground, and surrounded with an extensive lawn and barren heath beyond it. Not a tree was to be seen, except a few firs, most of them blighted with the wind or stunted in their growth. A good kitchen garden with a high wall to defend it from the northern blast, was at some distance, in a situation less exposed; and about a mile from the house was a small village, consisting of a few straggling cottages, but it was ten miles distant from any town.

Neither the habitation, or the mistress of it, were agreeable to Amelrosa on a further knowledge; for the former was cold and gloomy, and the prospect round it dreary in the extreme; and the latter, not in any degree, such as she could feel happy at being dependant on. Her temper was violent, and she was haughty, capricious, and deceitful: what pleased her one hour, she detested the next. To her children she was so ridiculously indulgent, that it was painful for any person to live with them, and much more to have the task of instructing them.

Yet while she yielded and encouraged their whims, ill-humour, and idleness, she was so unreasonable as to expect, that whoever instructed Martha and Anne, were to render them exceedingly well informed and accomplished. They had indeed good abilities; but if they were not suffered to apply themselves to their studies, except when

when their own inclination dictated, how was it possible they could attain any useful and lasting knowledge; and if not allowed to be reprimanded, or midly corrected, after being guilty of a fault, it was impossible they could be amended of their errors or become amiable.

They had likewise, one propensity, which a good mother, that properly loved her children, and considered their future welfare, should have corrected, and represented in the improper light it merited, till they were ashamed of it. This was a constant habit of telling untruths; and if any of the people about them offended Martha or Anne, in the most trifling degree, they were sure to invent some shocking falshood, and inform their weak mother of it; who firmly believed them in preference to every other person.

Amelrosa often trembled at the violent

passions these little tyrants would throw themselves into, on the most insignificant occasions; and injured their health likewise, by continually crying, as they were as peevish as passionate: a very extraordinary combination in their dispositions; for violent tempers are seldom fretful.

Amelrosa endeavored by gentle reproofs and rewards that pleased them, to mollify their passions and make them attentive to their employments; but generally without success. The slightest punishment she dared not inflict, convinced they would in revenge, invent some falsity of her, which they had already done in consequence of her reproving them. To have untruths told of her, was a circumstance of all others, she dreaded; and having been educated by Lady Archdale to love not any thing equal to truth, and to abhor falsehood; she considered a liar as the most dangerous of all characters, and worse even than a dishonest person,

person, against whom you may defend yourself, by securing your property; but from a liar there is no security; and she felt the greatest pity for Mrs. Skinner's children, who were so unfortunate as to have a mother that encouraged them in this vice, instead of employing every effort to eradicate such a dishonorable and hateful custom.

CHAP. VII.

No wither'd witch shall here be seen,
No goblins lead their nightly crew;
The female fays shall haunt the green,
And dress thy grave with pearly dew.

The redbreast oft at evening hours,
Shall kindly lend his little aid,
With hoary moss and gather'd flowers,
To deck the ground where thou art laid.

Collins.

THE most tranquil moments Amelrosa enjoyed since her residence in Northumberland, were in the absence of the young ladies. Mrs. Skinner dined at four o'clock, and her daughters at five were permitted to come and partake of the desart; remaining

ing in general with their mother when she had not any company, till they went to bed.

During this peaceful interval, Amelrosa would frequently amuse herself in strolling about the dreary environs, and often retraced the path which led to the neighbouring hamlet, the most pleasant spot the wild adjacent country presented, from being interspersed with a few trees, now beginning to deck themselves in their robes of lively green; as it was in the early part of the month of April, that she first began to wander beyond the precincts of Mrs. Skinner's grounds.

Contrasted to the sterile prospect around them, the hamlet was replete with rural charms. Several fields surrounded it that looked verdant with the new-sprung grass, and it was situated at the bottom of a winding dell. The banks and hedges were ornamented with wild flowers; the violet

diffused delightful fragrance from its lowly bed, and the pale primrose enlivened the scene; whilst the meadows were strewed over with daisies and cuckoo-buds. In her frequent visits to the hamlet, she remarked a small habitation, extremely neat and superior to the rest of the cottages; and one evening walking past it, she saw a decent woman like a servant, come out with a child in her arms.

As she gazed and admired the beauty of the child, glancing again at the woman who held it, to her no small surprise, she recognised the nurse that lived with Minette, and immediately accosting her, inquired where her mistress resided. Pointing to the house she had lately quitted, the woman, who seemed glad to see her, said, Mrs. Belmont lived at present there, and the little boy that Amelrosa caressed was her child. "You look so much better than you did ma'am," continued the nurse, "that I didn't recollect you at first, and don't

don't know if mistress would like you to be informed where she is, as she told me to keep it secret from every person; but I cannot make any scruple to acquaint you with it, because she speaks of you with so much regard; and indeed I have been for some time puzzled what to do about her, for her health gets daily worse, and I am fearful she cannot live long. Now, should any thing happen to her, while I am all alone with her, I should find myself very unhappy. I've many times had a mind to write to Mr. Belmont how bad she is, but have been prevented, from the fear of making her poor dear soul angry with me; but thank God, now I've seen you, you can advise me for the best."

Amelrosa replied, "she certainly would, and desired her to prepare Mrs. Belmont to see her the following evening. "Mistress passes here," rejoined the nurse, "for a lady whose husband is gone abroad, which I've given out; for it is nothing to me what

diffused delightful fragrance Mr. Belmont. bed, and the pale primr nd fear she has scene; whilst the me reduced to death's over with daisies ; she is so mild, she her frequent visit any body. I dares to marked a small to find us in such a lonely and superior uch as I do to meet you here: and one ev must know, Ma'am, that when a decent in Lunnun, mistress told me, she with a go to some country place, a great distance away, and did not care how dull it was, if so be it was in some lonesome place where she would not be likely to be found out; and not to say any thing to the woman of the house where she lodged, though she was a good kind of body, that it might be impossible for her to be discovered.

"Northumberland is my native country, Ma'am, and having an aunt who lives at a village a few miles from this; I desired her by letter, to look out for a cot house, such as my mistress described, and taking this

us, we came down to it; no-
r. Belmont, knowing where
to."

me additional conversation passed, and
lrosa then parted from the nurse, and
ned home ruminating on the strange
t that had occurred. It was too late,
ad considered, for her to visit Minette
evening, as she could not have re-
ed but a few minutes with her. The
evening she thought time had never
ed more slowly, till the young ladies
summoned to their mother, and was
oner left alone, than she flew, rather
walked to the hamlet; and the nurse
eiving her, as she stood at the window,
ediately opened the door and con-
ed her into a small parlour, where in
ge arm chair, she shuddered at behold-
the feeble and emaciated remains of
ette. Her eyes looked wild and hol-
having entirely lost their former lus-
but a beautiful bloom still played on
her

what it is separates her from Mr. Belmont. I respect and love her, and fear she has been used hardly, to be reduced to death's door, as she is; but she is so mild, she never complains of any body. I dares to say you wonder to find us in such a lonely place, as much as I do to meet you here: but you must know, Ma'am, that when we were in Lunnun, mistress told me, she would go to some country place, a great distance away, and did not care how dull it was, if so be it was in some lonesome place where she would not be likely to be found out; and not to say any thing to the woman of the house where she lodged, though she was a good kind of body, that it might be impossible for her to be discovered.

"Northumberland is my native country, Ma'am, and having an aunt who lives at a village a few miles from this; I desired her by letter, to look out for a cot house, such as my mistress described, and taking this

crate her grave." Shocked and astonished, Amelrosa strove to inspire her with the hope that she would recover, apprehensive that the prospect of approaching dissolution might increase her illness, and add to the weakness of her fragile form; but to all her reasonings, Minette replied,

"Your amiable motive I feel and am thankful for; yet you cannot deceive me. I know that I have not long to live. Death will be to me a blessing, as I shall find myself released from the acute misery I suffer from the reproaches of my conscience; and by my repentance, I hope my errors are expiated. For what should I wish to live to drag on a wretched existence. Vicious people may continue to lead a life of dishonor, and with constant dissipation banish thought and remorse; but Minette, though she has erred, was not formed for a life of guilt.

"Alas, she continued, (in a deep toned mournful

mournful voice, while convulsive agony shook her feeble frame.} the fatal blow was struck to sever me from this world, when I knew that I was a murderer—that I had by my ill conduct. destroyed the best of father's,—and can I exist to say it, deprived my innocent sister of her only protector."

Here she paused, overcome with the dreadful recollection, and horror and compassion were delineated on the countenance of Amelrosa, at hearing her talk thus wildly; and she rejoined,—"My dear friend, you must certainly be mistaken. The Marquis De Luneville is not dead, and even if that event should have taken place, why do you accuse yourself as the cause? An illness, not in the least degree connected with the mind, has most probably deprived him of existence."

"Could I hope it were as you represent," said Minette, deeply sighing,-"the reflec-

reflection would smooth my last moments. Travelling down to this place, I read an account of his death in a newspaper, at one of the inns we stopped at; and judging myself to have been the cause of shortening his unfortunate life, the shock had a most dangerous effect on my health, and I have never since wished to live."

Amelrosa now essayed to divert the conversation from this mournful topic, and began to speak of her child, whose praises she heard with the satisfaction of a fond mother. The little Conrade was at her request, brought to them, and she perceived with benevolent pleasure, that Minette's countenance looked more cheerful as she gazed on the blooming boy, and she flattered herself, that if there was any hope of her recovery, much as she doubted it, her child would contribute to reconcile the lovely penitent.

After remaining as long as possible, to amuse

amuse and banish her melancholy, Amelrosa returned home quite dejected, resolving to send to the nearest town for a doctor; and consulting the following evening with the nurse, a man and horse were dispatched for the most eminent medical gentleman he could procure, as she knew Lord Conrade was too generous and humane, notwithstanding his libertinism, to mind expence.

She found herself under the necessity of acquainting Mrs. Skinner, she had a friend dangerously ill in the neighbouring hamlet, whom she had met with unexpectedly, that she might be allowed to go to her when the doctor arrived, having desired the nurse to send for her, as she was anxious to have his opinion of Minette's disorder. Mrs. Skinner gave her permission, and with a bursting heart when summoned, Amelrosa repaired to the hamlet.

After the gentleman had seen Minette, she

she waited with the utmost anxiety to speak to him in another apartment, and with the deepest grief heard him pronounce, that he was assured from every alarming symptom, she could not live more than a fortnight. Medicine, the doctor added, would not be of any service to her; she was too far gone and ought to have had advice before; however, he should send her some trifling things that would relieve her sufferings and soften the violence of her cough.

When this gentleman was departed, she communicated what had passed to the nurse, requesting at the same time, she would give her Mr. Belmont's direction, as it was absolutely necessary she should write to inform him of Minette's hopeless situation. The nurse instantly procured it, and Amelrosa immediately wrote Lord Conrade, describing the affecting condition to which the victim of his perfidy was reduced, in the most emphatical and pathetic terms.

A week

A week had elapsed since her writing to him, and at the close of the day she was seized, overwhelmed with sorrow, by the news of Minette, who could not now quit her bed. Her cough had entirely left her, which Amerose considered as a favorable sign, all the doctor, who had continued to attend at her request, assured her it was not; and desired they would be prepared to expect her dissolution, as she could not live many days. Suddenly her melancholy reflections were disturbed by the sound of an approaching carriage, a circumstance so unusual in the hamlet, that supposing it was either Lord Conrade, or some messenger from him, eagerly she arose and drew near the window, at the moment that a post-chaise stopped before the door, and she beheld his lordship alight, accompanied by an elderly gentleman in mourning. Minette enquired who it was, but returning a vague answer, she left the room to prevent Lord Conrade from abruptly entering and terrifying her.

Dejection

Dejection was visible on his countenance, and regarding Amelrosa with mingled emotion, in a faultering voice articulated, "I hope Minette is not so ill as your fears have made you represent, and that the atonement I shall willingly make for my breach of promise, will contribute to restore her health, as the indisposition she labours under, proceeds, I imagine, from grief; and when all anxiety is removed from her mind, her youth will be in her favor; and I flatter myself, it will not be long before she is recovered. I have brought a clergyman and a licence with me, and make her happy by imparting the intelligence, that I am ready to marry her immediately, truly repenting of my former conduct."

"Sincerely does it grieve me, my Lord," rejoined Amelrosa, "to be obliged to wound your feelings, by depriving you of all hope. The justice (she mournfully continued, while tears flowed fast from her eyes)

eyes) you mean to do my sweet friend, arrives too late. In a few days she will be no more. Arm yourself therefore, with fortitude to meet her, and behold the alteration she has undergone, and I will in the mean while prepare her for the interview."

With these words she quitted Lord Conrade, who was nearly motionless with the pangs of horror and remorse; and repairing to Minette, by gentle degrees divulged to the poor invalid, that her seducer was in the house, and truly lamenting his former behavior, wished to see her, and make any reparation in his power for the crime he had committed. But notwithstanding all her precaution, the intelligence affected her so much, that she fainted away repeatedly.

Having with difficulty recovered and restored her to more tranquility, Minette desired Lord Conrade might be admitted; though her weakened frame trembled universally,

versally, and she was supported with pillows. Volumes of the most eloquent and moving language, could not have touched his soul like the sight of the victim of his treachery, sinking into the grave in the earliest dawn of life; who possessed beauty, sense, and sweetness, all blasted e're they had reached maturity, by his blighting hand. He knelt by the side of the bed, groaned deeply, and the violence of his feelings threatened nearly to destroy his reason: in a tone of frenzy, a thousand times did he implore her to forgive him, and to live for his sake. With a look of unutterable woe, she silently shook her head at these reiterated entreaties; and he then besought her as the only consolation she could bestow, to let him have the satisfaction of knowing she died with the name of his wife. At this last request, she faintly murmured, that such repeated instances of regard and repentance of his conduct towards her, would make her, had her father lived, regret she must inevitably

quit a world, that his penitence rendered pleasing to her; and to prove, that even in the latest moments of existence, she was eager to oblige him, who had been dearer to her than her own happiness, she consented without hesitation, to whatever he desired.

The clergyman and doctor, who were in the house, were now requested to enter her apartment, and while this melancholy marriage was solemnized, every eye present, except the gentle Minette's, overflowed with tears of bitter sorrow. The mournful ceremony performed, they all withdrew with the exception of Amelrosa, as Minette was quite exhausted, and her friend was apprehensive the agitation of spirits she had suffered, would abridge the short remnant of her life. After remaining some time longer with her, Amelrosa was necessitated to leave her, to return home, as it was rather late. Mrs. Skinner on her entrance, expressed her disapprobation of her staying

staying out so long: but when she explained the cause, would not appear so inhuman as to continue her ill natured animadversions, though she secretly felt equally offended; possessing in reality, a very unfeeling heart, whose inhumanity she contrived in general to disguise.

For some hours Amelrosa could not close her eyes, so much were her thoughts engaged with the interesting Minette; however, she at length fell asleep, and about five o'clock in the morning, when enjoying a calm slumber, was awakened by a loud ringing at the hall door bell; and soon after, one of the maid servants came into the room and informed her, a person from Mrs. Belmont, wished to speak with her on something of great importance. Amelrosa ordered her to be shewn up, and the nurse entered with her eyes swelled from crying; and the first words she uttered were to say, that Lord Conrade entreated she would come immediately to their house, as he

feared his lady would hardly live till she arrived.

Hastily Amelrosa dressed herself at this distressing, though not unexpected intelligence; and directly accompanied the nurse to the cottage, where she found Lord Conrade, in whose countenance grief and despair were visible, apparently distracted with the pangs of remorse and anguish. "Good and beneficent angel!" he exclaimed, when he beheld her; "let us go to that suffering saint," and instantly she attended him to the chamber of Minette; upon whom she had no sooner cast her eyes, than she was convinced all was nearly over, though she had never seen any one dead, or dying, but the estimable Sir Edmund, the friend of her youth.

Amelrosa supported her in her arms, though she averted her eyes from her soul-piercing countenance, and Lord Conrade kneeling by the bedside, in broken accents, Minette endeavored to console him; adding

adding, in disjointed sentences, "I do not regret the trials I have undergone;—but for your sake—since at length you know my heart—I only wished—to live to recommend—my little boy to you—and to—prove my—ardent affection and fidelity:" then grasping Lord Conrade's hand, e're Amelrosa or his lordship were aware of the fatal event, the last spark of life fluttered in her breast, became extinguished, and the young and beautiful Minette was gone for ever!

The cruel truth, that those eyes were closed by the remorseless hand of death, and the harmony of her voice was never more to be heard, no sooner flushed on Amelrosa, than she was overwhelmed with the deepest sorrow, notwithstanding she was prepared for it; and Lord Conrade's grief rising almost to frenzy, he threw himself on the floor, tore his hair, struck himself violently, and with justice accused himself as her destroyer. When his frantic emo-

tions began, however, to subside, his lordship addressed himself to Amelrosa and the clergyman, who had continued with him, saying, he could not endure to remain a moment longer in a place that reminded him of the amiable woman he had lost, in too forcible a manner, as conscious of his perfidy and guilty neglect, if he continued where her image would constantly present itself, his senses he was convinced, would not support the recollection; and in consequence of these reflections, he should depart immediately with the child and its nurse.

Lord Conrade then requested Mr. Percival, the reverend divine, and Amelrosa, to conduct every thing necessary and proper for the funeral, and to act as they judged best in all respects; and the post-chaise having been got ready, he flung himself into it in a state of misery almost inconceivable; and the lovely boy and his nurse being likewise placed in it, the carriage drove off.

Almost

Almost blind with the tears she had shed, Amelrosa wrote to entreat Mrs. Skinner, would give her leave to remain at the cottage till the last obsequies were paid her friend; informing her at the same time of the melancholy event that had happened; and having dispatched this letter, sent for an elderly woman that resided in the hamlet, to continue with her for the present. In a few hours one of the footmen brought an answer from Mrs. Skinner, in which she replied, that Amelrosa was not only welcome to remain at the cottage during the period she requested, but for ever, if she pleased; as she did not wish her to enter her doors again, not having occasion for a person who devoted their whole time to others, to educate her children; nor would she give credit to its being a female dying friend that occupied her attention, but rather concluded, it was a male living one. Her rags and the money due to her, she desired she would send for directly, and ended her elegant epistle, with insolently

tions began to dress in her future ship address clergyman saying disgraceful to the pen of a mom person who had received a him education and had the least feeling, too Amelrosa, and more particularly p arriving at such a moment. How- she comforted herself with the hope procuring some superior situation, where would not be subject to the folly and humor of such a mother as Mrs. Skinner, and the unamiable dispositions of similar children; for partial as she was to children, she could not avoid disliking Martha and Anne, as their tempers were so violent, and their propensities to act wrong, she had found impossible to eradicate. Her mind was not only filled with sorrow for the misfortunes and sufferings of Minette, but with apprehension and uneasiness for herself, disappointed as she was in every plan she had formed, and all the wishes of her heart. Often as she sat weeping

weeping by the pale inanimate corpse of her friend, she would almost wish for the same peaceful and desirable rest. No longer troubled with the misfortunes of life, her gentle spirit had ceased to lament the afflictions that sunk her to the grave, while the man who possessed her warmest regard, would mourn her loss, since he had learned to appreciate her worth; far different from herself, who when shrouded in her native clay, would probably be execrated rather than lamented by him she faithfully loved.

Mr. Percival, who was to continue at the house till the funeral had taken place, by his religious and benevolent conversation, somewhat soothed her mind; and trusting to the Almighty source of every blessing, she struggled to resume her fortitude. The necessary preparations being made, the period arrived which was to consign the lovely and unfortunate Lady Conrade Mansforth, to the silent mansions

of the dead. In the adjacent village, the parish church raised its lofty spire, and beneath the shade of an ancient yew tree, her valued relics were to be deposited in their confined cell; the spot having been chosen by Amelrosa. Accompanied by Mr. Percival and the elderly woman who was with her, Amelrosa followed her beloved Minette, to that calm habitation where sorrow cannot affect the lacerated bosom of woe, or the wicked afflict the good. Here their persecutions cease. The sad and awful ceremony agonized the gentle and tender heart of the feeling mourner, and when she heard the earth thrown on the coffin of the once gay and blooming Minette, deep sobs burst from her agitated breast, and to support her trembling form she was obliged to recline on the woman who attended.

After the interment, Mr. Percival having made the necessary arrangements, took leave of Amelrosa, and departed for his rectory,

rectory, where his presence was required. Amelrosa remained two days longer at the cottage to recover herself, and then set off on horseback to the nearest town, having previously had her portmanteau conveyed there. As she rode onward, her eye caught a view of the village steeple, and her heart throbbed, while the tears ran down her cheeks, at the remembrance of Minette, who lay reposed in the rustic church-yard. A plain tomb-stone, merely inscribed with her name, age, and when she expired, was to be placed over her grave: and continuing to muse on the untimely fate of her lovely friend, Amelrosa inwardly repeated with enthusiasm, two verses from the dirge in Cymbeline, which involuntarily were presented to her memory, and are so well known and extremely beautiful.

When howling winds and beating rain
In tempest shake thy sylvian cell,
Or 'midst the chace, on ev'ry plain,
The tender thought on thee shall dwell.

Each lonely scene shall thee restore;
For thee the tear be duly shed;
Belov'd till life can charm no more,
And mourn'd till Pity's self be dead.

Collins.

When she arrived at the inn to which her portmanteau had been conveyed, she had the mortification to learn that the only stage that went from that town was already gone, and was necessitated to hire a post-chaise to proceed twenty miles farther; but imagine her grief and astonishment, when she alighted, to find her portmanteau which was fastened in front of the carriage, had disappeared. The postillion said he conjectured it had slid off, from the hostler who had corded it on the chaise, not having properly secured it. Amelrosa desired he would immediately drive back, to try if they could recover it; but notwithstanding they returned the whole of the journey, they were quite unsuccessful, and exhausted with vexation and fatigue, she returned disconsolate to the second inn she had

had stopped at when she discovered her loss. Seven guineas which fortunately she had in her pocket, were now all the money she possessed; the remainder of her little property and valuables, the gifts of Lady Archdale, that in case of exigence she could have sold, being in the portmanteau; having imprudently in the late confusion of her mind, neglected to remove them into the little box, as she was always accustomed to do, but lately she had kept papers in it; and Lady Archdale's picture was likewise there, and by that means saved. Bitterly she wept this additional affliction, and having relieved her bursting heart, reflected that grieving would not restore her loss, and [redacted] her health, therefore endeavored to regain composure. Ringing the bell, Amelrosa inquired of the waiter, what stages were going to London, and heard with a small gleam of satisfaction, that one would set off in a few minutes with a single passenger only, and eagerly taking her place, she was immediately conducted to it.

Her

Her companion was a lady who possessed a large share of taciturnity, and suffered her to enjoy uninterruptedly, her own melancholy reflections; and saddened by a free indulgence of them, she arrived in town weak and dispirited. Driving directly to Mr. Melville's and inquiring if he was at home, the servant informed her, he was gone into the country to a gentleman who was exceedingly ill, nor did she know when he would return, as the gentleman intended to keep Mr. Melville with him till he was recovered, and was to make him a handsome compensation for his trouble. A friend of Mr. Melville's, a medical man, attended his patients during his absence, and her mistress, the servant added, was likewise in the country, at a little cottage a few miles out of town, which her master had taken chiefly for the health of their children. Amelrosa had now no alternative but to go to an inn or hotel, and accordingly took up her abode for that night at a very respectable inn where the stage had

had stopped, intending the next day to look out lodgings.

In the morning she arose after sleeping very indifferently, the noises in the house, to which she had been unaccustomed, banishing repose, and went out to seek for a lodging. The low state of her finances would not admit of any thing beyond a single room, and she found the greatest difficulty in procuring even this simple accommodation, as the various people where she applied were very suspicious at seeing such an elegant beautiful girl seeking alone for an apartment so inferior; and several times she was told, they never received persons of her description. At length, after considerable fatigue and mortification she succeeded, and hired a back room on the second floor in a mean street in Mary-le-bone, referring the lady of the house to Mr. Taylor for her character; but desired her not to mention her motive for asking, and the woman having such an account

from

from Mr. Taylor as satisfied her, admitted Amelrosa that evening. Having left several articles and a small part of her clothes at Mr. Melville's, which were particularly acceptable since her loss, she took them in a hackney coach to her lodging, for which she was to pay seven shillings a week.

When all her expences were discharged, her whole stock of money consisted of two pounds fourteen shillings; but she flattered herself by managing this little sum with great frugality, she should be enabled to make it last till Mr. Melville returned, as she did not think it probable, notwithstanding what the servant had said, he would be much longer out of town. She could have, she knew, what money she required from him, which she would easily repay when engaged in another situation, that her acquirements almost ensured her obtaining. Amelrosa went likewise to inquire after Lucy, but here another disappointment awaited her. Lucy was gone to Bristol

Bristol with the lady she resided with; and she could not avoid thinking, that every circumstance appeared to happen contrary to her wishes.

CHAP. VIII.

Misfortunes on misfortunes press upon me,
Swell o'er my head like waves, and dash me down;
Sorrow, neglect, and want, have torn my soul;
They hang like winter on my youthful hopes,
And blast the spring and promise of my year.

A FORTNIGHT had elapsed since Amelrosa's arrival in London, passed in unavailing hopes and wishes, that consumed her peace of mind, and consequently destroyed her health: while to add to her misery,

misery, with the most rigid economy, she had nevertheless reduced her small stock of money to a few shillings only, above the sum she had saved for to pay the next week's rent. The last time she called at Mr. Melville's to learn if there was any prospect of his return, the servant said, she had some expectation he would be home in the course of two or three days, and Amelrosa repaired thither at the period mentioned; but instead of meeting him, as she had flattered herself, was informed to her extreme vexation, that another letter had again been received, which from the purport of it, made his quitting the place where he now was, equally as uncertain as before. Amelrosa felt acutely disappointed, more especially as every calamity seemed to overwhelm her at that moment, and she was destitute of all that tends to render life desirable. Sensations the most agonizing and impossible to be repressed, rushed into her mind, and when she arrived in Portland-place on her way home, she found herself

herself so faint, that apprehensive she should fall down on the pavement, she was obliged to support herself, by seizing hold of the area rails belonging to a very handsome house. Some men servants who were standing at the door, perceiving her senses were just gone, humanely led her into the hall, and an elderly lady who was passing by, beholding her situation, followed her into the house, attracted by compassion.

Amelrosa was plainly dressed in a coloured gown and large bonnet; but the elderly lady perceived that her linen and the rest of her dress were of the finest quality; and judging from these appearances, that she was a gentlewoman, and not as it would have been natural to suspect from her personal graces and unprotected state, that she was some unhappy young creature, told the servants she was convinced she was a young lady. This encouraged them to be more attentive, than if she had been

been a worthless girl, however she might deserve their compassion, as they frequently practise deception; and having restored her by their exertions, Amelrosa in feeble accents expressed her gratitude, and was going away, when the elderly lady prevented her, saying she must not go without a coach, in the precarious situation of her health, as the same accident might happen again before she reached home, and perhaps she would not be equally fortunate in meeting with so much humanity.

In a faultering voice, as to pay for a coach would encroach considerably on her reduced purse, Amelrosa replied, that she had left home without money, and hearing this, the elderly lady put half a crown into her hand, and said at the same time, "Do not refuse it because my appearance is plain. I can well afford it notwithstanding, and if it is not enough, you shall have more." As well as the flutter of her spirits would permit, Amelrosa expressed her

her acknowledgments, and the servants having procured a coach, she was placed in it and drove to her lodging. When quite recovered from her indisposition and the agitation she had undergone, she felt vexed beyond description, at not having asked the benevolent lady's address, that she might wait on her at some future period, and gratefully thank her for her goodness to a stranger, whom she had feelingly assisted; though she knew not whether she was deserving her pity, as London abounds with impostors difficult to detect: however, she resolved to the latest moment of her existence, to remember this excellent elderly lady with the warmest gratitude. Amelrosa had regularly paid her rent, but the mistress of the house discovering, from many circumstances, she was poor, began to treat her with insolence and neglect, which was an additional mortification.

Obscured by a damp, thick, and gloomy fog, a faint light gleamed the next morning through the windows of her confined apart-

apartment, casting a sombre shadow over Amelrosa's pale emaciated countenance; and overcome with want and sorrow, she almost wished to join Minette in that tranquil abode, where the worthless can no no longer distrees the good, nor the pang of grief wound the bosom of virtue. Comfortless, desolate, and abandoned by those she loved, the big tears rolled rapidly down her pallid cheeks, as her head reclined on her hand, and she reflected she had no one being who could alleviate her misery, near her. The violence of sorrow in which she indulged, was only interrupted by the hoarse grumbling and shrill notes of the different cries, that at an early hour annoy the inhabitants of the metropolis.

Amelrosa, the child of sorrow, the victim of extreme but honorable poverty, had scarcely seen nineteen summers. Her's was the beauty that attracts the heart, for she was unconscious of her charms; her's were the

the manners that win the soul; for sweetness, native gaiety, and sensibility beamed in her eyes, and truth and good sense flowed from her lips. "Alas," she suddenly exclaimed, "can I thus calmly perish for want of the necessaries of life. No, I will shake off the timid apprehensions of my soul, and encounter, perhaps insult and derision, rather than be thus inactive. I will seek out those who in the days of my prosperity, when protected by Lady Archdale, received me with smiles of gladness, and in the chilling hour of adversity may probably relieve her adopted daughter with the kindness they always met with from her, and with the benevolence of which she ever gave them a shining example. "Oh, Providence!" she continued, folding her snowy hands, and raising her streaming eyes toheaven, "grant that my afflicted heart may meet with some relief, and impart consolation to this wretched bosom!" Scarcely had she concluded this ejaculation, when the maid of the house, who was unlike

unlike her mistress, extremely civil, brought up the newspaper, which she had not seen for many days, and glancing over it, an advertisement for a governess immediately caught her eye. Dressing herself directly, she went out and made application at the house to which she was directed, and was desired to call the next morning.

With a heart palpitating with hope, Amelrosa punctually attended at the appointed time, and would have been engaged, as the lady approved her in every respect, had she not been too young. In vain Amelrosa assured her, she had suffered misfortunes that rendered her as steady as if she were forty years of age; for she would not listen to her, and disconsolate she retired, reflecting as she walked slowly, from weakness, and pensively along, that it was not surprising that well educated young people acted improperly when reduced to distress, since if they were young

young, many persons refused to supply them with an honorable method of maintaining themselves. Continuing to proceed in mournful abstraction with her eyes reclined, Amelrosa attracted the notice of a gentleman who was passing in his carriage: immediately he stopped it, alighted, and ordering it to wait, advanced towards her.

The sound of his voice when he approached and spoke, caused her to start, and raising her dejected eyes, devoid of their former brilliancy, she met those of Lord Rossmore, regarding her with the most expressive compassion, and with the utmost confusion, she murmured out an answer. "Take my arm, I entreat," he rejoined, "and consider me as an old friend. I cannot express how much I feel, at beholding such a striking alteration in your appearance. You seem both ill and unhappy." The voice of kindness vibrated so forcibly on the heart of the forlorn and

destitute Amelrosa, that while it soothed, affected her, and she burst into tears. This emotion appeared to excite the most tender pity in his lordship's breast, and fearful her agitation might be observed, he requested she would allow him to conduct her to his carriage, which was in waiting at a corner of the street. Hardly able to stand from the tremor that had taken possession of her weakened frame, she was rejoiced to avail herself of his politeness, and leaning on his arm, was led to it, and having handed her in, they drove to her lodgings as Lord Rossmore had inquired the address.

The meanness of the place where his lordship saw she resided, made her feel quite ashamed, and her confusion was increased at his dismissing the carriage, and asking permission to accompany her into the house. She was necessitated to shew him into her apartment, which though clean, was furnished in the most homely manner,

manner, with a bureau bed in it. Every thing bespoke the poverty that surrounded her, and her residing alone in such obscure circumstances, filled him with conjectures. Never had Lord Rossmore, since the loss of his lamented Elmira, felt interested for any other woman but Amelrosa, though an impenetrable mystery hung over her, which he could not, however, unravel; yet was now determined, if possible, to develop, by questioning her, who seemed candour itself. In the most delicate manner, he contrived to encourage her to place confidence in him, which was far from being a difficult task; as the veneration and involuntary regard she always experienced for his lordship, were encreased by the perfect knowledge she had gained from Farmer Heartwell, of his estimable qualities.

The present unhappy state of her mind, made her more inclinable to indulge the natural frankness of her disposition, not having a single being to whom she could

apply for assistance or advice, or knew to what further misery she might unavoidably be reduced. These considerations likewise, contributed to influence her to profit by the professions of friendship Lord Rossmore expressed; and his lordship had not been many hours with her, before he had drawn from her, in compliance with his entreaties, a frank disclosure of her actual situation; which was followed by the history of herself from her earliest remembrance. During her narrative, Lord Rossmore was apparently much agitated, and at the commencement suffered an agony of mind, for which he apologized, by imputing it to some painful recollections.

When she had concluded, his lordship suddenly pressed her to his bosom, and alarmed at the circumstance, Amelrosa recoiled from him with terror. "You will pardon the effect of uncontroulable emotion," exclaimed Lord Rossmore; "for my feelings were ever too impetuous, when I assure

I assure you, that every incident you have related of your infant years, makes me firmly believe you are my child; and I could not resist clasping to my heart, the offspring of Elmira." Here his lordship paused, and taking out his handkerchief, endeavored to conceal the pangs that subdued him at the cruel remembrance. Beholding his inourable sorrow, and struck with the words he had uttered, Amelrosa who always felt the affection of a daughter for him, fell at his feet, and when he raised her up and kissed her, she returned his paternal embrace with warmth, and bathed his hand with tears of joy.

"It is, I think, impossible," continued Lord Rossmore, "that I can be mistaken; but even if I should, I shall adopt you in future, as my child. The sound of your voice the first time I beheld you, reminded me of the melodious tones of the most beloved of women; and your form cast in the same admirable mould, exactly resembled

her's, though your countenance, from being so fair, in the sweetness alone that adorns it, bears any semblance to Elmira's. Portugal, the place of your birth, was likewise the native country of my lost angel; and the description your nurse gave of the young lady, your supposed mother, who consigned you to her care, together with your age, and the period at which these events took place, agreeing with the time and circumstances of my own unfortunate history, all conspire to produce conviction. I recollect now, as another convincing proof, that Heartwell once remarked, how strongly you resembled me. I cannot avoid also suspecting that some of my Portuguese enemies, discovering you were my daughter, had you conveyed to the forest of Arvilla, with an intention of either murdering, or confining you for life, to deprive me of the satisfaction of ever learning I had a child living; perhaps your great uncle who since the death of your grandfather, possesses the fortune you

ought

ought to inherit in right of your mother, as I can prove our marriage was perfectly legal; though when I found she was torn from me for ever, and my daughter I supposed dead, I was too much afflicted to concern myself about it; but for you, my child, I shall not be equally passive, and exert myself to behold you in possession of the fortune to which you are the lawful heiress. However, I must first use every exertion to elucidate the mystery which at present hangs over your birth, and if the scheme that I have now planned is approved by you, it shall instantly be placed in execution. It is, to depart for Oporto by the first vessel that sails for that city; and you had better if you like it, accompany me. To this proposition Amelrosa assented with pleasure, and it was determined she should remain till she quitted London, at her present abode, as it would not be worth while to make any new arrangements for a short time, probably but a few days.

His lordship was no sooner gone, having first informed her he should call the next day, to acquaint her with the result of his inquiries, relative to the ship that was to convey them on their voyage; and Amelrosa had scarcely recovered from the perturbation her spirits had sustained from this agreeable surprise, which had given her a valuable protector, when the mistress of the house knocked at the door. Fury was depicted in her countenance on her entrance, and she desired Amelrosa would pack up her things and turn out, since she had found a keeper, as she would have no such bad doings in her house. That not a single woman had been to see her, and in the shabby paltry way in which she lived, to have a grand gentleman in his carriage come to visit her, had not a good appearance by any means. Frightened at her vulgar, abusive behavior, Amelrosa mildly assured her, this gentleman was a near relation, and that at all events, she need not be alarmed about her character,

as

as she should leave her house in a few days, and presented her with a guinea, (Lord Rossmore having supplied her with money) desired she would accept it as a payment beforehand, for the short time she should remain with her; and it was indeed more than half the sum that would be due to her. The woman's frowns were now converted into smiles, and making a humble curtsey down to the ground, in a whining tone replied, she hoped every thing would be made agreeable to her ladyship, while she honored her poor house with her presence.

Amelrosa could with difficulty suppress her laughter, though thoroughly disgusted with so much evident deceit, that was too shallow even to deceive the most credulous, and was a proof, with many others she had received, of the mercenary dispositions of such sort of people, who are fawning when they hope to make any advantage, and insolent where not any thing is to be gained from the unfortunate.

The necessary preparations having taken place, and Amelrosa purchased some ready-made clothes, it was with sensations of long absent pleasure, that she quitted her miserable residence, when Lord Rossmore came to fetch her in a post-chaise and four, attended by two out-riders. The mistress of the house, and the other lodgers, were all gaping with astonishment, to see her go off in such superior style; and the world being always ready to take the ill-natured side of the question in every station of life, they all lifted up their hands and eyes, and exclaimed, that to a certainty, the pretty young woman was going fast to destruction. While she furnished them with conversation for some days, and they conjectured numberless impossibilities, Lord Rossmore and Amelrosa were arrived at Portsmouth, where the vessel lay, that was to convey them to Portugal.

Their voyage passed very pleasantly unattended by any alarming or disagreeable acci-

accident, during which interval Amelrosa endeavored to dissipate his lordship's habitual melancholy, and by conciliating his regard, to strengthen the affection he already felt for her; while the filial love she experienced for him, whom she considered as a parent, was increased by a further knowledge of his rare and almost unequalled virtue and dignity of mind; and with pride she could have styled him father. When the ship anchored before the city of Oporto, the keenest anguish was implanted in her breast, at witnessing the strong emotion that shook the frame of Lord Rossmore. A livid paleness stole over his countenance; he folded Amelrosa to his bosom, groaned deeply, then disengaging himself from her, crossed the deck with hasty strides, while the drops of affliction bathed his manly cheek, and he was lost to himself, till Amelrosa's convulsive sobs aroused him, and viewing the distress of all that remained of his Elmira, of whom the present scene too cruelly re-

minded him, he strove to resume his fortitude, and by recovering his composure, soon restored Amelrosa's. To behold his inflexible sorrow, was not the only misery she had to combat with; but the recollection of the sufferings of her mother, that she felt affection for, though she had never known her, and the revived remembrance of the loss of her dear Lady Archdale and Sir Edmund, which these scenes of her early youth presented to her memory in fresh and unfading colors; nor was Montague, the only man who possessed her sincere regard, forgotten; and the idea of his conduct and neglect, added to the pangs that tortured her susceptible heart.

In compliance with Amelrosa's request, Lord Rossmore soon after their arrival, hired a quinta that was fortunately to be let, at a short distance from where the late Lady Archdale formerly resided, as she found a mournful pleasure in contemplating and retracing the places in which she had passed

sed the happy days of childhood and dawn of youth, a stranger to the sorrow which had since overwhelmed her.

After they were settled in their new habitation, Amelrosa, who had made many inquiries respecting her nurse, sent for her, and the joy of the worthy Josepha was unbounded at seeing her again, and learning she was to reside with her during his lordship's continuance in Portugal. In one of his calmest moments, Lord Rossmore desired the nurse to repeat the circumstances relative to Amelrosa's being left at the cottage, and the account she gave, confirmed him yet more strongly in the belief that Amelrosa was the child of his adored Elmira. In the course of conversation with his lordship, she became acquainted, that the nobleman who had behaved so treacherously, and afterwards married Elmira against her inclination, was Don Roderick de Montalvan, and congratulated herself more than ever for various reasons, that she

was

was not allied to a character so worthless, though she had suffered mortification and uneasiness at the time, from the disappointment and insult she had sustained, and convinced her that what is often lamented as a misfortune, by presumptuous and erring mortals, is generally for their advantage.

Amelrosa was playing on the harp one evening, to amuse Lord Rossmore, when Josepha entered, and asked permission to bring into the house an old woman who was travelling with her son, and being over fatigued with her journey, had fallen down in a fit at the garden gate. His lordship and Amelrosa, instantly desired every assistance might be administered to the poor woman, and some time having elapsed, Josepha returned at their desire, to inform them the woman was recovering and Amelrosa then accompanied her nurse to see the sick person, and inquire if she wanted any pecuniary relief to proceed on her journey; but

but conceive her astonishment, when she recognized in the strangers, her old acquaintances Beatrice and Jacome, though disguised in different attire.

Their pleasure seemed to be almost unspeakable at the sight of her, and she was rejoiced to behold them, as they had always behaved with so much humanity, and at length aided her to escape, when they had it in their power to have treated her extremely ill. Jacome now informed her, to her infinite surprise, that it was in search of herself that they were travelling, and he would explain the cause if she pleased to favor him with a private interview, having a great deal to relate, and in the meanwhile, would be much obliged to her, if any person came to inquire if they were in the house, to order the servants to say they had not been there. Amelrosa complied with his request, and desired him not to fatigue himself with talking, till he had some repose, and then went to inform Lord Rossmore of what had passed, who was impatient to hear Jacome's communication;

fast asleep, and Jacome sending word he was quite refreshed, was summoned into the presence of Lord Rossmore and Amelrosa, who made him sit down, as he was tired with his journey, and informed him, he might mention whatever he had to say before the gentleman, for he was nearly related to her. "That I could have sworn, lady," retorted Jacome, "from the likeness you bear to him," and proceeded.

"Were I not well acquainted with your gentle and humane heart, lady, I should be afraid to impart the crimes of which I have been guilty, fearful you would deliver me up to justice: but on the other hand, being committed against my own inclination, I trust to your goodness to make some allowance for a misguided [illegible]. About six years ago, lady, my mother, myself (my father being dead when I was a boy) lived together apparently in comfort; but I was then of [illegible] condition, got into debt [illegible]

many imprudent actions unknown to my mother, which kept me in constant fear lest it should reach her ears, and nearly break her heart, as she always thought well of me, and used to boast to all her neighbours what a good son I was; therefore it would have been a dreadful blow to her in her old age, to be turned out of doors and have all her property sold to pay my debts, which I every day expected. This was the more shocking, as we lived in a creditable manner, and our dwelling was not many miles distant from the forest of Arvilla, where knowing there was plenty of game, and being fond of shooting, I took my gun one day and set off for the forest, to divert by employment, my miserable reflections. Striking into a remote part of it, and hearing something rustle among the leaves in a deep tangled thorny brake, supposing in this retired spot it must be a wolf, or some large bird, without a moment's consideration I fired. A groan immediately followed, that filled me with horror, and rushing

ing forwards, by breaking my way through the bushes, I beheld a gentleman richly dressed, lying on the ground without life, for the ball I found afterwards had pierced his heart. Sensations of pity, terror, and remorse, though my depriving him of life was unintentional, overwhelmed me for some moments at this horrid spectacle; but base thoughts, caused by my poverty and distress, afterwards entered my head. Judging from the richness of his dress, he was some person of distinction, while I wondered at his being alone in such a place, I concluded, he had most probably, some valuables about him, and determined to release myself from the embarrassments that perplexed me, by searching him and taking possession of whatever he had about him. Trembling, however, I examined the body, pulled a diamond ring from his finger, and rifling his pockets, discovered a purse of gold and a valuable watch. Eagerly engaged in securing these articles and making a further examination, I found

myself

myself suddenly seized roughly by the arm, and looking up, stunned with fright, saw two ill-favored fellows that instantly secured me, and from their arms, and the dress they wore, immediately concluded they were banditti, having often heard them described, but always had the good luck never to meet them. They conducted me directly to the interior of the forest, where a body of men were assembled, habited in the same dress, and led me to one, whom they styled their Captain, acquainting him at the same time, with the circumstance of having found me plundering the newly murdered corpse of a gentleman, who had just escaped out of their hands, after they had killed his servant, and from every appearance, judged I had destroyed him, having been attracted to the spot where they had discovered me by the report of the gun I had fired. The Captain now questioned me on the subject, which I solemnly assured him, happened as it actually did, alledging that my distress alone could

could have induced me to pillage the dead body. 'Well, my lad,' replied the chief of the robbers, 'I dare say it is as you relate, but if it is not, 'tis all the same to us, for your life is now in our power, and were we to carry you before a judge, every circumstance would go against you. Consent therefore, to become one of our comrades, for we shall be glad of you, having lately lost several brave fellows; but if you do not chuse to join us, we will dispatch you ourselves. Or should you pretend to consent and afterwards escape, you shall certainly be delivered up to justice, as we have spies and emissaries in numberless places. However, if you freely and heartily agree to make one among these honest men, you shall be supplied with money to extricate yourself from all the difficulties you have acquainted me with, and there is an old Moorish palace in the midst of the forest, where your mother can live with you. It will be an excellent concealment as none of the neighbouring peasants penetrate

mal situation, was pleased, because we had plenty of money and she had less to do than before, an easy life being very agreeable to a woman of her years. Sometimes I used to see in company with our chief, a tall, thin, yellow, long faced man, who looked like one of our Portuguese noblemen; and my curiosity being raised, I asked one of our troop who that gentleman was, and received for answer, that his name was Don Luis de Zamara, a friend of the Captain's, and one of the greatest villains on earth, added my comrade. 'It is not to get money to maintain himself,' he continued; 'that Zamara commits crimes, but from a devilish disposition; for he is very rich! however, he pays any of the troop handsomely, that performs a job for him; and having us in his power, as we have him, we understand each other. The Moorish palace belongs to him, and a great part of the surrounding land, but for all that we rarely see him, except when he has some scheme in agitation that requires our assistance.'

"A con-

"A considerable time elapsed after this conversation, and the Captain came one morning to me, when I was busy cleaning my arms, and thus addressed me: 'I have a charge, Jacome, to confide to you in a few days, that must exercise your greatest vigilance.' It is to escort a young lady from the borders of the forest to this place, and to keep her closely imprisoned here, and you are to receive a handsome sum of money if you perform your duty well. She is the niece of one of my friends, and was supposed to be dead; in consequence of which supposition, her uncle enjoys a large fortune she ought to inherit; but since he has found out she is living, fearful any chance should disclose who she is, he wishes from this and other motives, to confine her for life.' I promised to obey his commands in every point, and was glad to be engaged in an affair that would more than ever, prevent me from being employed on the sanguinary expeditions that I detested; and though I felt sorry for the lady, my

heart was hardened in some degree, by associating with those wretches my companions, and I did not feel as I should otherwise have done. From several circumstances that happened, I discovered that Zamara was your uncle, lady; and a further knowledge of your sweetness and goodness made me execrate him for his cruelty to you, as he wished me to have treated you with such severity as would have shortened your existence. When you fled the first time, I was under the necessity of informing our Chief of it, as many men at that period, were employed to narrowly watch every avenue of the forest, and they would have discovered your flight, if I had not acquainted them with it, and suspecting treachery, by my not mentioning it to them, would have put me to death, and you would to a certainty have fell into worse hands. The Captain was at the head of the party who seized you a second time, when your protector was wounded, and expressed so much admiration

tion of your beauty, that had it not been from the fear of displeasing Zamara, I am convinced he would have had you in his power. While his party were engaged in taking you prisoner, I was obliged to join my companions in a skirmish with some travellers, who made a stout resistance and finally put us to the rout; and caused the ghastly figure I made when I appeared before you, and alarmed you so much, lady.

"Your sufferings afterwards, your fortitude and gentleness, had such an effect on me, that I became totally changed, and determined to quit the infernal life I led, the first opportunity I could, with any prospect of saving mine and my mother's life. The ruffian who attempted to assassinate you, I suspected was your uncle, and concluding if I had wounded him as I conjectured, that he would be revenged on me and at all events attempt your life again, I was determined at any risk to save you and

effect your escape; in which I succeeded, as you have experienced, lady. You were no sooner placed under the care of the good friar, than I returned to the palace; and telling my mother to pack up the most valuable articles we possessed, informed her there was a necessity for our quitting the forest immediately, yet we must not go away together; and desired she would repair to a town about five and twenty miles distant, and take up her abode in it till I came to her. She was rejoiced to quit the palace, but did not like to go without me: however, my persuasions prevailed, she mounted her mule and departed. As I was preparing a short time after, to set off in another direction, I perceived the Captain of the banditti coming towards our late habitation; and apprehensive if he saw me, and found that my mother and the lady were gone, his suspicion would be excited and he might wreak immediate vengeance on me; as he probably came in consequence of Zamara's late attempt, to know the

event

event:—I hastened to the back of the palace, where my mule was fastened, and rode off as expeditiously as I could, fear increasing my speed.

"From that period till within these two months I have been constantly pursued by different detachments of the banditti, and have narrowly escaped by practising the greatest vigilance; sometimes obliged to conceal myself in the mountains, woods, caves, or villages, just as circumstances made it necessary, till the pursuit, from a long interval having elapsed and not seeing any thing of the robbers who sought my life, I judged to be nearly over. I then went to my mother's residence, who was delighted to see me, having suffered considerable uneasiness on my account, as she had not heard from me for such a long time; and we both about three weeks afterwards, set forwards on our journey to Oporto, with the hope of meeting you there, to impart every thing I knew relat-

ing to yourself; and likewise to implore you, if you had friends that could be of service to me, to request they would intercede to procure my pardon, for having been associated with the banditti, as it was involuntary. I dared not go, before we commenced our journey, to make any inquiries respecting you of Father Gonzalvo, fearful of being seen by the banditti, as the convent was so near the forest.

"We were necessitated to travel some distance on foot, our mule dying on the road; and when we came within a mile of this place, my mother set down to rest herself, and at that moment who should unfortunately pass by but Don Luis de Zamara.—He stared very hard at me, and from this incident I trembled, lest he should have known me and my mother, as we had nothing remarkable in our appearance to attract notice, and were dressed in clothes different from what we were accustomed to wear at the palace, as you may perceive, lady.

lady. He had no sooner passed than I entreated my mother to hasten forwards, observing we were in danger and must proceed as quickly as possible to the city, being secretly afraid, which I did not communicate to her, that Zamara would return with some of his myrmidons to seize and betray us to justice. My poor mother exerted herself to the best of her ability, but at her age the fatigue and alarm overcame her, and at the moment we reached your gate she was taken ill with a fainting-fit; which has proved fortunate in the end, as by that means it has introduced us to you, lady, the object we were seeking after."

Here Jacome finished his recital, in which Amelrosa and Lord Rossmore had felt considerable interest; more particularly from its having disclosed the motives for her confinement in the forest and assassination, and likewise the family to which she belonged. She thanked him again for the service he had rendered her, of which she

estimated

estimated the value more than ever, and congratulated him for having at length had resolution to quit such a vicious and dangerous mode of life, as he had followed for some years; while his lordship assured him he would use every exertion to serve him, which he had in his power from his father the Earl of Cliffden, being acquainted with some of the first families in Portugal. In the meanwhile, Lord Rossmore added, he gave his mother and himself permission to continue at his quinta, till this affair was settled to his advantage; and during that period he had better not quit the house or grounds, to avoid encountering any of his enemies.

Having dismissed him to the kitchen, Lord Rossmore informed Amelrosa, he was more than ever convinced she was his daughter, from the circumstances Jacome related respecting Zamara, and his having her confined in the Moorish palace; however, he should go and visit the next day

Signora

Signora Valeria, the lady who was the friend of her mother, Elmira de Zamara: and at whose house Elmira had given birth to Amelrosa. In consequence of this resolution his lordship repaired on the following day to Marserellas, where the Signora resided, on the opposite side of the river Douro, some distance from Oporto; and Amelrosa awaited his return with a heart fluttering with expectation and hope; of which she dreaded the disappointment, as this lady, Lord Rossmore expected, would more clearly elucidate the mystery that enveloped her descent.

Till the shades of evening lowered his lordship continued absent, and then entered conducting a lady between thirty and forty years of age, habited in black, with a mild and melancholy aspect. She took Amelrosa's hand when Lord Rossmore introduced her, and melted into tears; saying the same loveliness of form and native grace, distinguishes her, as shone conspi-

cuous in my dearest friend, though she is fair like you. Amelrosa, much affected, could with difficulty articulate; concluding from the words the lady uttered that her tears flowed for her amiable and unfortunate mother; and his lordship now withdrew to avoid speaking on a subject that lacerated his feelings, and forcibly renewed the remembrance of his poignant sorrows. Signora Valeria then informed her, that within these seven or eight months, she was summoned to the death-bed of a woman, who was with Donna Elmira when she expired, and received from her previously a letter to be delivered to Signora Valeria after her decease, which she never however gave into her hands, but kept back, to threaten Don Luis de Zamara with, and extort money from him; and likewise prevent him from neglecting to pay the annuity he had promised to allow her, for ill-treating Elmira and hastening her to the grave, that he might enjoy the fortune that would devolve to him at her demise. Her father

father had repented of having married her to Don Rodrick, as he treated his daughter extremely ill, and behaved so ungratefully to him that he died of a broken heart. The woman added, that feeling herself drawing near her end, she wished to atone for her cruelty to Elmira, and disobeying her last injunctions, by delivering up the above-mentioned letter to Signora Valeria.

"My feelings were exceedingly wounded at this circumstance," continued Valeria, "from its reviving the memory of the loss and misfortunes of my friend, to whom I was tenderly attached, though younger than myself; and since her death have never mixed with the world. I left the unhappy wretch, and returning home eagerly and with deep emotion perused the long-written characters of that dear hand, consigned in the bloom of beauty to the silent mansion of the tomb. And imagine my astonishment when the letter informed me, that her child, whom I thought dead

and could never gain any other intelligence of, lived; and she besought me, if ever I loved her, to give it a mother's protection. Elmira then proceeded to acquaint me that when she fled with her infant, on hearing her father and uncle were coming to search my house, from suspecting the cause of her illness, she had left her child at the cottage of a female peasant; but in returning to me to request I would take charge of it and remove it elsewhere as soon as possible, she was met by her father and uncle, who forced her to return home with them; where they kept her for some months in strict confinement, till they obliged her to marry Don Rodrick de Montalvan, treacherously repeating the marriage ceremony when she had fainted and her senses were gone; having first informed her they had disannulled her union with Lord Rossmore, which was easy to effect, they said, because she was a Catholic and his lordship a Protestant.

"Don Rodrick, when some time had elapsed,

elapsed, perceiving," Elmira continued, "that he could not conquer her aversion to him, was enraged in the highest degree; and conducting himself with the greatest brutality had her conveyed to a solitary castle on one of his estates, where she was imprisoned under the guardianship of Padilla, a female more like a fiend than a woman, who used her with the utmost cruelty; which, added to her grief at being torn from her beloved lord, anxiety for her infant, and separated from her dear friend, all conspired at length to produce the event Don Rodrick and her savage uncle wished; for she found her sorrows every day drawing nearer to a close.

"Padilla finding she could not now live long, behaved with more humanity, and with the hope that her supplications at this awful moment would gain a compliance with her entreaties she had written this letter, requesting her gaoler would deliver it to Signora Valeria; and taking a solemn

and could never gain any oth commend-
of, lived; and she besoug' and desiring
loved her, to give it a r more of its ex-
Elmira then proceede of his Elmira, in
when she fled with and moving manner
her father and ur heart-rending letter.
my house, from
illness, she b[illegible] period I received this letter,"
of a femal[illegible], "I have been vainly seeking
me to re[illegible]er you; but Elmira not mention-
remov[illegible]ere the cottage of the peasant was
was [illegible]ed that had the care of you, I was
for[illegible]ead in my inquiries, supposing you
t[illegible]e left in some cottage on the city side
[illegible]the river; nor would I write to Lord
[illegible]ossmore on the subject till I had disco-
vered his daughter, or at length found my researches were vain; not wishing, till there was an absolute necessity, to probe his wound, having heard how keenly he had suffered. However, thank Heaven, all further anxiety is now finished.—His lordship has discovered a daughter that will be consolation to him; and he has the happiness

piness of knowing that the offspring of Elmira is secured in future from the ordinary misfortunes of life that have hitherto I understand from Lord Rossmore, oppressed her; and could her sainted mother behold, the tender objects of her love thus united, how happy would it make her gentle spirit! I likewise experience myself a comfort inexpressible, at witnessing this fortunate discovery, and termination of anxiety and grief; and to view the child of my dearest friend, whose voice, manner and figure remind me so forcibly of her and afford a painful pleasure."

Signora Valeria ceased speaking, [illegible] Amelrosa in elegant terms expressed pleasure she felt at being introduced mother's friend, though the [illegible] tion bathed her beauteous cheeks remembrance of that beloved parent ferings. Some additional having passed, Valeria [illegible] convincing proof [illegible]

subsist among the wicked, Don Rodrick and Zamara, who were apparently the warmest friends imaginable and agreed in treating Elmira with brutality, quarrelled most bitterly soon after my friend's death, respecting some division of her fortune, and have never met since, except by accident. Having concluded that part of their discourse that they wished Lord Rossmore not to hear repeated, Signora Valeria and Amelrosa went to join him in the garden, where he was walking; and Amelrosa falling on his neck, exclaimed, "How happy am I! for now indeed I know you are really my father, though my heart has long since told me you were."

Lord Rossmore affectionately embraced her, while the expression of his intelligent countenance betrayed his emotion; and after several minutes had elapsed, mentioned that he was going almost immediately to take some officers of justice to the habitation of Zamara; but Amelrosa interposing thus addressed his lordship.—

"If

"If I may be permitted to give my opinion, my dear father, without being guilty of presumption, I think that notwithstanding his crimes, as he is the uncle of my mother and brother of my grandfather;—out of respect to their memory, we should if possible oblige him to acknowledge me, without making the affair public. This method, I am of opinion, would be preferable, because it is impossible for him to deny the fact, from having so many witnesses against him, that it will be of little avail; and at all events if he persists in falshood, it will then be time enough to bring him to justice; though I own I should prefer his being left to the stings of his own conscience, which must sufficiently avenge the crimes he has committed; more particularly as the daughter of her he had contributed to destroy, and had likewise been the innocent object of his persecution, now triumphs over him, although he had practised the most wicked designs against her, and even attempted her life.

life. His malignity," Amelrosa continued, while a modest blush tinged her cheek, "I know my dear father would not repay with the same conduct, for you do not even hate those who use you ill; but have often behaved with kindness to people that have unjustly treated you."

Her benevolent interposition in favor of her bitterest enemy, pleased Lord Rossmore, and he flattered her by saying he approved what she had advanced and should observe it.—"However," rejoined his lordship, "though I have almost constantly forgiven any injuries done to myself and effaced them from my recollection, for vengeance and rancour do not inhabit my breast, yet I confess I have felt a strong inclination to resent and avenge the wrongs done to those I loved better than my own life; however, I shall certainly now forego the propensity I felt."

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Me miserable! which way shall I fly
Infinite wrath and infinite despair?
Which way I fly is hell; myself an hell;
And, in the lowest deep, a lower deep
Still threat'ning to devour me opens wide,
To which the hell I suffer seems a heaven.

Milton.

ATTENDED by a reverend priest, Jacome and several other persons, to guard him from treachery, Lord Rossmore set off the next morning for Souza, where Don Luis de Zamara resided. They found every thing in confusion at his habitation. Zamara being confined to his bed with a wound which it was apprehended would prove mortal. Not waiting then to learn the occasion, but conjecturing that it was in some base fray he had received it, and fearful

fearful he might not live to do an act of justice to Amelrosa; they hastened to his chamber, where extended on a bed lay the wretched and guilty Zamara. How changed since his lordship had seen him in the prime of life, handsome, animated and haughty. His eyes were sunk and dim, his yellow visage, long, thin, and wrinkled, but though altered in such a degree, that Lord Rossmore, had he seen him any where else would not have remembered him, Zamara knew him directly, and a guilty horror and dismay was diffused over his livid countenance; for his lordship, though considerably older than when he last saw him, and reduced by grief, looked still noble, handsome and interesting.

Virtuous sorrow had altered Lord Rossmore, but it was vice, debauchery, and crimes of the blackest die, that had thus changed the miserable Zamara. Conscious of his various enormities unexpectedly brought to light, the bed shook beneath him,

him, with the agitation and tremor that seized his guilty frame at the discovery of his villany, when his lordship mentioned the purpose for which he came. The sight of Jacome, caused him the most violent agitation; a gleam of fury lightened up his haggard eye, and he seemed as if he could, had he dared, have sprung from the bed, feeble as he was, to have stabbed him. He gnashed his teeth, groaned loudly, and muttered out incoherent words, nor could he be prevailed on to give a clear and proper answer, till the letter Padilla delivered to Signora Valeria was produced, and then finding it useless to deny his crimes, as all was known, and the priest exhorted him to make the only atonement in his power by avowing the truth; he at length confessed with hesitation, that Amelrosa was indeed the daughter of Lord Rossmore and Elmira his niece.

Zamara then briefly related his scheme in concert with Mrs. Marley, that caused Don

Don Fernando de Montalvan to conduct himself in the manner he did to Amelrosa, and finally occasioned them to be separated for ever. That when he first acted thus, he was unacquainted with her being the child of Elmira, but discovering it in consequence of his inquiries respecting her, from other motives, he was convinced from every circumstance, she was his lordship's daughter. Fearful if she continued at Lady Archdale's, Don Fernando would find means to make his peace, and when united to her endeavor to discover her parents, in which he might be assisted by learning from one of his father's old servants, some part of Elmira's hapless story that he knew very well, and by that means probably expose his guilt, and deprive him of the fortune which had been the occasion of his atrocity; having dissipated his own and wanting a great deal of money to support his extravagance, intemperance, and to pay the agents of his dreadful and secret deeds.—From this apprehension, and

and hearing Fernando intended to implore some friend of Lady Archdale's to prevail with her ladyship to forgive him and promote his union with Amelrosa, he resolved to lose no time; and making every necessary preparation, had her carried off from the masquerade (where Fernando conversed with her, though she did not know him, in a light blue domino) and conveyed to the Moorish palace; where he ordered her to be kept in strict confinement when he left her there, and not to be suffered to see a human being, except Jacome and Beatrice; intending if at any period the least prospect of her being discovered or rescued took place, to murder her with his own hand.

For that purpose, after she fled with Montague and was brought back to the palace, he had concealed himself in the eastern tower, and was the same figure that gliding along in black, had so much alarmed Amelrosa. The sight of her innocence, beauty and affinity to him, Zamara owned, had nearly

nearly disarmed his malignant and murderous intention; however, he smothered these humane thoughts, and struck as he flattered himself the fatal blow, hoping it was effective. In his retreat he was slightly wounded on the arm, and his rage became so great at this circumstance, that he determined likewise to sacrifice Jacome to his revenge; and it was fortunate for him that he escaped in time with his mother, and previously sent off Amelrosa, as they would all otherwise have been his victims.

But Heaven, he added, had since punished him for his former crimes, and the additional ones he meditated. On his return home unexpectedly, after seeing Jacome, on whom he intended (as he knew him) to be doubly revenged, for likewise assisting Amelrosa to escape, Zamara entered his house without being perceived by any of his attendants, and repairing to the saloon, where Mrs. Marley usually sat in the summer, as she now lived with him,

him, since her being discarded by Don Fernando, to his utter astonishment and dismay he found her receiving the attentions of a gentleman whom he had never seen, and lavishing on him the fondest and most affectionate expressions: for this gentleman was a new gallant, and wholly engaged with him, Zamara's approach was unheard, not expecting his return so soon. His rage and jealousy at this baleful sight, were horrible and difficult to describe,—having a stronger attachment to Mrs. Marley than he had ever experienced for any other woman, from her personal attractions and the similarity of their dispositions; and drawing the sharp poniard he always wore, he suddenly plunged it, in the impulsive fury of the moment, into the guilty bosom of his mistress, before her paramour could attempt to ward off the blow, that caused her to fall with a piercing and hideous shriek senseless to the ground.

The gentleman now stood on the defen-

sive against Zamara, who was aiming like an enraged and black assassin, to murder him likewise; and being more collected, soon obtained the advantage; and the inhuman Zamara received at length the forfeit of his accumulated offences, falling beneath repeated wounds from his own poniard, which the gentleman in the struggle had wrenched from him; and his blood mingled with Mrs. Marley's, his associate in guilt, that he had murdered. The gentleman no sooner beheld him extended, weltering in his blood, than he jumped out of the window of the saloon and escaped, just before some of Zamara's servants, attracted by his groans and shocking yells, entered the scene of horror and found their master and his mistress in the most deplorable situation.

Mrs. Marley survived but a few hours, expiring in the most excrutiating mental and bodily tortures, her wounds being mortal; but for Zamara expectations were at

first

first formed that he would recover; however, the irritated state of his mind, united with his impatience and refusing to be controled, produced a fever which threatened the most alarming consequence. This circumstance gave no pain to a single individual, not even to his attendants, as he was a most rigid master. Apprehensive his last moments were fast approaching, remorse and horror overwhelmed him at the remembrance of his enormous crimes; and feeling for the first time some repentance, with the hope of making expiation for his crimes, he declared Amelrosa, in a paper which he signed, witnessed by the priest, Jacome, and one of his own servants, was the daughter of Elmira de Zamara and William Albert Rossmore; and that Elmira's first marriage was legal and remained good, as her second marriage was merely nominal; no persuasions or threats having power to make her live on any terms with Don Rodrick de Montalvan. This affair being thus arranged to the satisfaction of Lord

Rossmore, he returned to Meragaya, after assuring the wretched Zamara of his and his daughter's forgiveness, whose gentle spirit never cherished malice against her most bitter enemies.

Amelrosa was shocked when the inforformation reached her of the unhappy though merited fate of the guilty Zamara, and the treacherous, deceitful and mercenary Mrs. Marley. She was grieved that such unworthy beings should ever exist to disgrace human nature; and particularly that one, of the most wicked and worthless description, should be related to her; but these reflections were soon obliterated, in the sweet recollection that she now beyond all doubt possessed a father whom she venerated and loved, and had been the occasion of lessening his acute sorrows, as he was more cheerful than formerly. Lord Rossmore suffered her to reward every one who had been instrumental in restoring her to him, in what manner she pleased.—

Her

Her faithful nurse was not forgot, whom she wished to have taken to England with her; and when she proposed it, the good Josepha would have gladly assented to her entreaties, had she not disliked quitting her daughter and grand-children, and therefore remained in Portugal.

Empowered by her father she offered Jacome and Beatrice, as a reward for the essential service they had rendered her, a sum of money that would make them comfortable and happy for the remainder of their days; but they positively refused it, saying the only recompense that would give them pleasure and which they earnestly entreated her to bestow, was to prevail with Lord Rossmore to take them into his service; Beatrice adding, though she could not do much, she might still be of some service in the family; and as there was no person in their native country they were so much attached to as herself, they could not endure to quit her for ever.—Ja-

come likewise observed that he had an aversion to remaining in Portugal, where he had led, notwithstanding it was against his inclination, such a vicious life; and that should Amelrosa not approve of their serving her, he would endeavor to get some other situation in England, as he could soon learn the language; and he should sometimes by that means have the pleasure with his mother, he hoped, of seeing and hearing of the dear lady to whom they were both so faithfully attached. Amelrosa was flattered and affected by fidelity thus uncommon; and mentioning what they had said to Lord Rossmore, he consented at her request, that Jacome should be engaged as her footman and Beatrice to wait on her, observing at the same time with a long estranged smile, that he feared the old woman would not make a very active or expert attendant, and that she must keep another when they arrived in England.

Amelrosa thanked him for his indulgence and

and rejoined, that she had been so often lately accustomed to wait on herself, that a waiting-woman would have little employment in attending on her, and Beatrice would do as well as any one else; and delighted to have the old woman near her, she flew to make her happy by imparting her success with his lordship. She now wrote Father Gonzalvo a narrative of all that had passed since they parted; acquainting him with the fortunate termination of her sorrows; sending with this letter by a messenger on purpose, an elegant costly silver ink-stand to keep in remembrance of her, as a pledge of her gratitude. Lord Rossmore now prepared to leave Oporto, but before he quitted it, was informed that Zamara, contrary to the general expectation had recovered, and truly repentant retired to a convent; and had taken a religious habit, practising daily the most severe penance, with the hope of expiating his sins: and the forgiving and benevolent hearts of Amelrosa and her father, were

rejoiced to hear it, and sincerely wished his penitence might atone for his guilt.

The Captain of the banditti and the greater part of his adherents were killed about a twelvemonth after Zamara's entering the convent, in combating with a troop of Portuguese soldiers; and the small number of the robbers that remained, either fled or were taken prisoners:—the latter were put to death in a public manner, and the former never heard of more. Signora Valeria promised to come and reside in England after she had settled her affairs; and Amelrosa anticipated with pleasure, the period when she should frequently enjoy the society of the valued friend of her lamented mother; and with less regret on that account, bade adieu most probably for ever to her native shores, which would be always dear to her, as there she lived happily and knew not a pang in the opening morn of life; for now, though surrounded with affluence and friends, painful thoughts

with

with which she was formerly unacquainted, corroded her gayest moments; and no circumstance or time could efface from her mind, the lover who had suffered and risked so much for her sake; however jealousy, caprice, or an attachment for another, might cause him to insult and neglect her; and when alone these reflections would dim her eyes with tears, though she disguised her feelings from every one, and in society strove to appear animated and devoid of care.

Lord Rossmore and Amelrosa were equally fortunate in their voyage on their return to England, as they had been in their passage to Portugal; and the astonishment of Jacome and Beatrice when they landed, at the novelty of all around them, was highly amusing. They set off by easy journies to Cliffden-Castle, his lordship being eager to introduce Amelrosa to his father. They stopped a short time at Farmer Heartwell's to see him, and call for her

dog Tray, left under his care. He was rejoiced to hear of the discovery that had taken place, having always been attached to the dear young lady, he said, not only from her own merit, but likewise from her resemblance to his honored master. Amelrosa desired he would acquaint Lucy with the change in her fortune; and added, that her father requested she would inform him that concluding the Earl of Cliffden would make an addition to his income, to enable him to support his daughter according to her rank, in consequence of that circumstance if it happened, he should again procure him a more extensive farm, and that Lucy might if she liked return home, as she would pay the expences of her journey and board at his house.

The good old man's eyes glistened with joy at this proposal, and he implored heaven to pour forth its choicest blessings on the head of his benefactor and his child. When Lord Rossmore arrived at his paternal

paternal mansion, before he introduced Amelrosa he first concisely related to the Earl, the events that had occurred; and when his surprise was in some degree subsided, went in search of her, and conducting her to Lord Cliffden, said, "My daughter!" and immediately she threw herself at her grandfather's feet, interested and affected with his venerable appearance, while his silver locks and reverend air effused the remembrance of his former unkindness to her father. At the sight of Amelrosa the Earl evinced the greatest sensibility, and raising her up, embraced her with the utmost affection. He seemed rejoiced at the restored serenity of his son, whose countenance was less melancholy than he had been accustomed to see it, and was not such a striking reproach to him, embittering the receding moments of existence; for he was seventy years of age, and the grief and repentance he suffered, for the misery he had heaped on Lord Rossmore by his cruelty, had enfeebled him and made him appear still older.

In compliance with his request, and to smooth his declining years, his son and grand-daughter consented to reside at the Castle, and Amelrosa devoted her whole time in endeavoring to make happy by her dutiful and tender attention beings thus dear to her. Sometimes she sung and played on the harp, or read to the old Earl to amuse him, and likewise played with him at chess, of which game he was very fond, and pleased him, by suffering him always to be the conqueror. With her father she frequently rode or drove out, and walked in the beautiful gardens, and extensive park that encompassed this spacious, magnificent and ancient Castle, the seat of his ancestors. Six months passed in this manner, during which interval, though painful recollections would sometimes arise, the reflection that she was performing her duty, softened every pang and made her feel cheerful and resigned.

Her grandfather introduced her to several of

of his relations, and to many families of consequence in the neighbourhood; and among the rest to Mrs. Romney, who to her pleasing surprise, she found had lately returned to England with her husband, and was distantly related to the Earl. She possessed the same gay and good-natured disposition; and a pensiveness which she observed occasionally to steal over Amelrosa, Mrs. Romney attributed to the dull life she led for a young person, and not to any disappointment from her attachment to Montague Glenholme; concluding she had conquered her affection for him, as she never introduced the subject, and delicacy forbade her to begin it, as she reflected perhaps Lord Rossmore did not approve of Amelrosa's engagement to him. From the kindest motives, she mentioned to her father the observations she had made on the sadness that seemed to oppress his daughter, adding, that she thought it would be an advantage to her, if his lordship permitted Amelrosa to accompany her

her to London, where she was going in a few weeks. Eager to contribute in any degree to the happiness of this beloved child, Lord Rossmore immediately gave his consent, and acquainted Amelrosa with it, who expressed what she really felt, her reluctance to quit him and her grandfather.

Supposing this merely proceeded from the native goodness of her heart, that wished to shew them every attention, though her inclinations were quite different, his lordship would not listen to the objections she made; and accordingly, at the appointed time, Amelrosa accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Romney in her father's post chariot, and her friend's carriage followed with their attendants. Lord Cliffden presented her previously, with the jewels belonging to the late Lady Cliffden, which were extremely valuable, and desired she would have them new set at his expence. His lordship gave her likewise five hundred pounds to expend as she thought proper; but particularly desired,

she

she would purchase some elegant clothes, and make an appearance worthy his granddaughter.

CHAP. XI.

My soul disdains each meaner heart,
No studied terms my passion prove;
While warm with life, this faithful heart,
Shall beat with never dying love!

And wilt thou love me, gentle youth,
When these few charms for age are flown?
Sweet maid, this heart with love and truth
Shall ever beat for thee alone!

WHEN Amelrosa and Mr. and Mrs. Romney arrived at Blandford, and were waiting in a front room of the inn till dinner was announced, a carriage drove into

authority for him to take her under his protection; and he was instigated more particularly to hope she would oblige him by accepting this proposal, from a wish that his little boy might be placed under her care, and not be trusted to the guidance of servants only. To this proposition, Felicité consented, as his penitence and remorse for the injuries he had inflicted on her poor sister, were evidently sincere; and he had though too late endeavored to atone by every thing in his power for his guilty errors; but her principal inducement for complying with this request, was to have the pleasure of being with the little boy whom she valued and loved, for he was all that was left of her beloved Minette. Lord Conrade was now going to take her to Exmouth, judging that the sea bathing would be of service to her health; and the change of scene, as she had been ill and melancholy ever since the death of her father and sister, might contribute to restore her spirits. From his

his lordship Felicité continued, she had learnt Amelrosa's kindness and unexampled attention to Minette, for which she experienced the most heartfelt gratitude; and was charmed to hear of the fortunate discovery of her parents and good fortune, which she so well deserved.

This interesting subject being discussed after some additional conversation respecting it, to divert the painful thoughts that arose and pervaded Felicité and Amelrosa's bosoms; the latter inquired after her old acquaintance Madame de Villette and her son, who were still in town she found, and often conversed about her. The Count d'Arvill Felicité mentioned with a blush, had been necessitated to go to Germany, but was expected to return to England in five or six months. While Amelrosa conversed with Mademoiselle de Luneville, Mrs. Romney was relating to Lord Conrade, whose person and manners she admired as was unavoidable, the interest-

interesting discovery Amelrosa had met with; at which his lordship expressed the highest satisfaction, from the obligations he owed to her for her kindness to Lady Conrade Mansforth, and the exalted opinion he entertained of her character, repeating likewise the unjust suspicions he had been the cause in some degree of infusing into the mind of Captain Glenholme; and in consequence of reflecting lately on the injury Amelrosa had sustained, he had exerted himself to discover her lover, but without success; as it was his earnest wish to explain her innocence with respect to himself, who had indeed adored her, though she always evinced the most perfect indifference to him. Mrs. Romney was surprised and grieved at this intelligence, and determined if ever she had an opportunity, to endeavor to reconcile the disagreement between these two unfortunate lovers. This little party were all so much interested in the different subjects that occupied their attention, that it was

was a late hour before they retired to rest, and consequently they did not rise very early the next morning.

As they breakfasted together at the inn, the sound of a band of music playing a fine martial air attracted the attention of the little Conrade, who was seated on Amelrosa's lap, while she gave him his breakfast; and to please the child, she took him to the window to see the soldiers pass by, as children are always fond of looking at their gay dress. It was a new regiment just arrived to be quartered in the town, and Amelrosa felt a melancholy sensation pervade her mind as she beheld them, from their reminding her of Montague; when glancing her eyes at some of the officers that were in the rear and passed last, her admiration was excited by the elegant and uncommonly noble figure of one of the officers, who was taller than his companions. Suddenly he turned his head which was averted from her, looked

looked up, and she recognised with strong emotion the principal object of her thoughts, gazing eagerly at her, while the glow that mantled on his cheek was succeeded by an ashy paleness; the sight of the lovely boy in her arms, and Lord Conrade placed by her side, impressing him with the idea that she had been married to his lordship immediately after their unhappy meeting; and giving her a contemptuous glance which he considered her infidelity deserved, he withdrew his eyes with a heart torn with the most agonizing pangs of love and jealousy.

Mrs. Romney, who had accompanied Mr. Romney, Felicité and Lord Conrade, when they followed Amelrosa and the little boy to the window, gave an exclamation of joy when she beheld Captain Glenholme, though engaged in contemplating one dearer to him, he had not perceived her. Trembling with the unexpected surprise she had sustained, and painfully affected

at

at the scornful manner in which he had regarded her, Amelrosa hastily quitted the window, and disengaging herself from the child, sunk into a chair, overcome with a faintness that universally seized her frame at the conflict she had suffered. Her friends beheld her situation with the most poignant concern, and while they were exerting themselves to recover her, Lord Conrade violently agitated, snatched up his hat, and addressing Mrs. Romney, said :—" I entreat, my dear madam, when Miss Rossmore is restored to recollection, that you will prevail with her to be composed, by assuring her, that since I have been the cause of separating her from Captain Glenholme, I hope by every exertion in my power to be the occasion of uniting them again;" and with these words he rushed precipitately out of the house.

Lord Conrade overtook Captain Glenholme before the soldiers were dispersed, and having advanced and accosted him, re-

requested the favor of half an hour's conversation; but this, Glenholme at first, with an air of haughtiness unusual to him, refused, saying—"Are you come my lord, meanly to insult me, by describing the happiness I have just witnessed?"

"If you wish me to understand," replied his lordship, "that you conclude I, am married to the object of your affections, you are mistaken; I am not so fortunate." This information and address, calmed the fierce indignation of Montague, and his men having orders to repair to their places of destination, with resumed composure he attended Lord Conrade to another inn in the town.

His lordship had the goodness, painful and disagreeable as the subject was to him, to relate the history of himself and his lady the hapless Minette, under a promise of secresy; as it was necessary it should be known to him, to take off every imputation of inconstancy and impropriety from Amelrosa,

rosa, but with the discovery of her being the daughter of Lord Rossmore he forgot to acquaint him.

Montague with a heart dilated with rapture, at the confirmed unchangeable affection of the woman he loved with invariable regard; accompanied Lord Conrade back to the spot that contained her with quick and elastic steps. Her senses were quite restored when they arrived, but she was so completely wretched that when she learnt every thing had been explained by his lordship to the satisfaction of Montague, (who was come to solicit her pardon for his conduct, caused by the suspicions planted in his breast by her enemies, and strengthened by the unlucky combination of circumstances afterwards,) the transition from excess of misery to happiness was so great, that her weak and perturbed spirits could scarcely support the joyful change.

How opposite were the sensations of

Montague when he now beheld her, to those he experienced when he previously passed the window!—Convinced of her purity and fidelity, he trusted to her sweetness to forgive his impassioned behavior, which he could not resist yielding to after their long and cruel separation; and advancing to her, with impetuosity he clasped her in his arms, and folding her to his breast expressed in the most affectionate and impressive language his transport at beholding her, and the anguish he had felt at their disunion. Convinced from his manner and Lord Conrade's preceding communication, that their joy at this reconciliation was mutual, and his esteem rather augmented than lessened, she did not with affectation repulse him, but confessed an equal and innocent pleasure at his being restored unaltered to her; and for some moments lost in the contemplation of their felicity, they were regardless of all around them.

From this ecstacy of delight at seeing each

each other after such a tedious and painful absence, they were awakened by Mrs. Romney, who rallied them well; and the conversation took a general turn; while Amelrosa recovered from the confusion which overwhelmed her, at her friends having witnessed the testimonies of affection she evinced at beholding Montague again; and an accidental glance at the mournful, convulsed, and dejected countenance of Lord Conrade, who seemed labouring to suppress the most torturing emotion, inclined her to wish with uneasiness, she had endeavored to restrain her joyful feelings.

Montague's satisfaction was however considerably diminished, when he learnt that Amelrosa was now become the last hope and heiress of an ancient, noble and wealthy family; expressing his apprehensions as he was chiefly dependant on his uncle Sir Robert, that Lord Rossmore might not approve their union; but Amelrosa reassured him by replying, "My father is

too liberal, and has himself undergone such exquisite misery from being frustrated in his dearest wishes, that I am convinced he will never oppose his daughter's union with a man who would generously have married her when she was portionless and dependant, and knew not from her doubtful extraction the rank of her parents.—They might have been the most worthless of human beings. To your family and character," continued Amelrosa, "no person can object; but even if by any unexpected circumstance my marriage with you should not be approved, depend on the sincerity of my assertions, when I assure you, I will never be the wife of any other than yourself,—gratitude and affection binding me to you with indissoluble bonds, that no persuasions can prevail on me to sever, which perhaps, (she added with a smile,) you will be sorry to hear."

This last remark produced a gallant speech from Montague, who kissed her hand

hand with transport; and the most impressive language cannot do justice to the delight he felt at the energy with which she spoke, and was so flattering to him; and after some further conversation on the subject, and general topics of discourse, in the course of a few hours the party separated; Mr. and Mrs. Romney, with Amelrosa, proceeded on their route to London, where Montague promised soon to join them, expecting leave of absence in the course of two or three days; and Lord Conrade, Felicité, the nurse and little boy departed for Exmouth; his lordship bearing with him a greater share of wretchedness than he suffered before he met Miss Rossmore and her friends at the inn, which excited her utmost commiseration; as his late behavior, self-denial, and repentance, atoned in a considerable degree for his former errors.

Beatrice, when she attended Amelrosa at night, and heard from her that she had unexpectedly seen the gentleman who rescued

her from confinement in the forest of Arvilla, expressed her satisfaction; saying, she knew her lady loved him and he loved her, or he would not have taken so much trouble about her, and endangered his life for a lady he cared nothing about and did not like him; adding she prayed every night to see her dear lady happily married; and as she knew she liked the handsome, brave gentleman that came to the palace, it would not be long she hoped before her prayers were heard. The usual loquacity of the good woman did not stop here, and she painted in her simple manner, such a delightful picture of happiness, which she said, she was certain awaited her lady; that Amelrosa went to bed, her imagination filled with these pleasing ideas and visions of future, and undisturbed felicity floated round her head.

Montague soon followed them to town, and after the pleasure of seeing each other had subsided, and allowed them to think

of

of any one else, Amelrosa inquired eagerly where his sister Emmeline was. Her brother informed her, that she was still with his uncle, and had wrote him word, she had written several times to Amelrosa, but never received any answer, which Miss Rossmore attributed to her not having sent in the confusion and distress of her mind; her direction to Emmeline since she left Mrs. Stanhope's, where the letters most probably remained, and of whose treachery and her daughter's she became fully acquainted to her extreme horror; by the disclosure Montague made to her, of their base representation to him respecting her attachment to Lord Conrade, and she lamented the badness of their hearts. The pensiveness of Emmeline's appearance, Montague informed her in confidence, was occasioned by the death of a gentleman to whom she was engaged, and expired of a fever when the preparations had taken place for their nuptials. This relation excited Amelrosa's

warmest sympathy, who while she looked at Montague, thrilled with anguish when she reflected, how acute would be her feelings at a similar event, as to be deprived of those we love; she thought at the height of our fondest expectations is the keenest of all miseries.

They had been settled more than a week in London, when Mrs. Romney at Amelrosa's request, wrote to acquaint Lord Rossmore with the engagement subsisting between his daughter and Captain Glenholme, (which she had slightly mentioned in the narrative she related to her father,) and likewise informed his lordship that Captain Glenholme had entreated her to intercede in his favor, and present at the same time enclosed, a letter from him; in which in the most elegant manner Montague solicited Lord Rossmore's approbation of his addresses to Amelrosa. Sir Robert on this occasion also received a letter from his nephew, asking his consent; and Glenholme

holme and his lovely mistress anxiously awaited the answers to these letters, so important to their happiness. As soon as could be expected, arrived one from Sir Robert, entirely as they most wished; promising to settle something handsome on Montague, and mentioning that when he knew that Lord Rossmore approved the proposed marriage, Emmeline should come up to see them, as she wished to be present at the ceremony.

This letter imparted the highest satisfaction; but in vain did they expect his lordship, no answer arrived; and Montague was seated one evening with Amelrosa and Mrs. Romney, conversing with great anxiety on the subject, when a post-chaise stopped at the door with the horses in a foam, as if they had been drove with great expedition; and the perturbation Amelrosa experienced was not trifling, when she distinguished her father's liveries.—In a few minutes after, Lord Rossmore entered; and

Montague and himself were both struck with the noble exterior and prepossessing appearance that shone conspicuous in each other, though his lordship's personal graces were dimmed by sorrow and the superiority of years. The politeness and affability with which he received Captain Glenholme when introduced to him, dissipated their uneasiness; which was succeeded with the happiest emotions of pleasure, when Lord Rossmore assured Montague that whoever had been selected by Amelrosa must possess merit, and he had his full consent to unite his fate with his daughter's. A manly joy shone in the countenance of Glenholme at this pleasing termination of anxiety, heightened by the condescending goodness his lordship displayed, while blushes of ingenuous modesty added to the charms of the interesting Amelrosa.

The marriage Lord Rossmore wished should take place at the seat of his ancestors; and when Emmeline Glenholme arrived

rived in town, they all set off together for Cliffden-Castle. A short time after their arrival the nuptials were celebrated; and on the morning the ceremony was performed a small select party were invited.—An elegant tent decorated with flowers was fixed on the lawn, and several of the same description were dispersed through the beautiful pleasure-grounds and park, where groups of children belonging to the poor rustics in the neighbourhood, chosen by Amelrosa as future objects of her bounty, fancifully dressed by her orders in white, with garlands of eglantine and primroses, played and sported, or jumped about and attempted dancing to the enlivening sound of an excellent band of music. On the liquid bosom of the small but picturesque river, that washed the ancient walls of the Castle, hung with creeping ivy that often entwined the Gothic casements, and where the valerian and stockgilly-flower flourished in rich luxuriance, boats with gay awnings floated along the water, inviting the com-

pany to enter, and as they rowed onwards harmonious sounds broke upon the ear.

Amelrosa, attended by Emmeline, her bride-maid, descended the long flight of steps before the Castle-hall, to view the festivities going forward; and the eyes of every one present turned to contemplate her unequalled loveliness, that they were never tired of beholding; and Montague, who was walking on the lawn with Lord Rossmore, felt all the excess of his felicity at being united to a woman so estimable and fascinating. The emotion she experienced, caused by reflecting that on this eventful day the future happiness or misery of her life depended, diffused a pensiveness over her countenance that increased its beauty and gave her charms a more winning grace than their usual brilliancy.

The chasteness of her dress made her appear the allusive semblance of Purity itself:—over a thin, soft, white sarsenet, a robe

robe of point lace with small sprigs on it, gracefully invested her exquisitely proportioned form.—Her nut-brown hair unornamented fell in loose natural curls round her sweet face; and the long and waving tresses were negligently, but with taste, twisted up behind; while a brighter bloom than generally tinted her cheek, like the rose which she resembled, glowed with unusual lustre and lovely hue, occasioned by agitation and modesty. Her large expressive eyes reclined beneath their long dark lashes with attractive timidity, as the cowslip,

> ——————— Whose bashful flowers,
> Declining hide their beauty from the sun;
> Nor give their spotted bosoms to the gaze
> Of hasty passenger.

Amelrosa did not wear any ornaments, though presented with a great many by her relations and friends, as she delighted in simplicity; and when she walked in the surrounding grounds and paced the verdant lawn, tied on a white chip gipsy hat, with a small

a small wreath of hawthorn encircling it, given her by Lord Rossmore, who requested she would wear it as an emblem of the marriage state,—the blossoms being descriptive of the charms that attend it, and the thorns, of the cares that frequently accompany even the most happy unions.

Emmeline looked very pretty, was adorned with taste, and her complexion fair as alabaster, but with nearly as little colour; which made her by the side of Amelrosa, in whose countenance the white-bosomed lily was contrasted by the blushing tints of Flora's favorite flower, appear like the drooping snowdrop of February, "the first pale blossom of th' unripen'd year." On this happy day the old and venerable Earl seemed to have renewed his youth; and the cloud of sorrow that hung on the noble brow of Lord Rossmore, was dissipated: Beatrice and Jacome shed tears of joy, and the former would dress herself in her finest Portuguese dress, to do honor to her lady's nuptials.

Montague,

Montague, rich in the possession of the most amiable of women, resided with his fair bride at Cliffden-Castle, when the duties of his profession did not call him away; and by attentive duty, affection, and tender solicitude, they smoothed together the declining age of the Earl, and made the meridian of his son's life happy and serene as it could be in this world; while the children of Montague and Amelrosa became amusements and blessings to him. From their abode no unfortunate or distressed being, were ever turned from the door unassisted: here the child of sorrow and misfortune found relief, when denied it every where else. Amelrosa never forgot having sustained the calamities of fortune, nor suffered herself to be elated with the fortunate change; she recollected that once unhappy and forlorn, even the necessaries of life were far from her reach, though now she could confer on hundreds mitigation of pain, want and sorrow, and contribute to their happiness by alleviating their woes.

Signora

Signora Valeria, according to her promise, came to reside in England; and purchasing an estate in the neighbourhood of Cliffden-Castle, left it with her whole fortune at her decease to one of Amelrosa's daughters, to whom she was god-mother, and named after her.

Don Rodrick de Montalvan, reproached constantly by his conscience for his ill-treatment of Elmira, the unfortunate wife of Lord Rossmore, fell in consequence of these reflections continually obtruding, into a very bad state of health, and died about a twelvemonth after Amelrosa quitted Portugal. The necessary duties paid to his remains, Don Fernando returned to England:—he had conquered the errors that obscured his character, and became a most valuable and shining member of society; but always repenting the conduct that lost him the first and truest object of his love, he never formed an attachment to any other woman.

The

The Baron de Rosemont was killed in an engagement, gallantly fighting with a party of Royalists in La Vendeé; and while life existed entertained the same enthusiastic passion, that neither time nor absence could diminish, for Amelrosa; who mourned his brave and untimely fate with the most sincere and deepest sorrow; and every person acquainted with him felt real regret, which his merit demanded and obtained.

The Count d'Arville returned from Germany and was united to Felicité de Luneville, to whom he had been long attached, and received a pretty fortune with her from Lord Conrade Mansforth. His lordship's penitence was undissembled and lasting, though he never conquered his attachment for Amelrosa; and after the lapse of many years, his son was united to her eldest daughter Elmira.

Madame de Villette continued on the same friendly terms with Amelrosa; and the

the Count de Villette meeting with Emmeline Glenholme when on a visit to her sister-in-law, fell in love with her; and making Emmeline the offer of his hand, she accepted it, charmed with his manners and external appearance, which bore a strong resemblance to the lover she had lost. The pity that first inhabited her breast for the misfortunes of this noble exile, being united with esteem, created a friendship for him; and from friendship the transition to love was not difficult, strengthened by his resemblance to the man who had been most dear to her; and by esteeming the Count she flattered herself she loved his image, an idea soothing to her feelings.

Sir Sidney Delvin acquired with honor and credit, a very handsome fortune in the East-Indies; and on his return to his native country, learning the history of Lady Archdale's adopted daughter, renewed his acquaintance with her, and was ranked by Captain

Captain Glenholme and his lady among the most valuable of their friends.

Lucy received a portion from Lord Rossmore, and married a farmer in the neighbourhood of Greystone-hall; which was purchased by Mr. Romney, who cut down the trees, and made such considerable alterations that it became a cheerful, pleasant place. Mrs. Romney occupied the same situation as formerly in Amelrosa's affections, and was generally beloved; her company being always solicited from the vivacity, wit, and good-humour that distinguished her, with a fine understanding, from common characters.

The money Denham had accumulated in Lady Archdale's service with the addition of the legacy bequeathed to her, was a temptation to a man much younger than herself to make her a proposal of marriage; which she had the folly to accept. This man no sooner had the only attraction she possessed,

possessed, in his power, than he ceased to disguise his dislike; plunged into every extravagance, and frequently beat and otherwise ill-treated her, till the poor woman unable to support such cruel usage (that she often repeated was a punishment for her conduct to Miss de Merida) expired a twelvemonth after her unfortunate marriage of a broken heart.

Sir Robert Glenholme did not long survive the union of Montague and Amelrosa, and his nephew to oblige Lord Rossmore, immediately after this event took place, quitted the army. During the first years of their marriage, Sir Montague and Lady Glenholme generally went every winter to London, where the latter frequently met with many of her old acquaintance; and among the number with Mrs. Stanhope and Catherine. The superiority of her rank, and the magnificent, but not extravagant style in which she lived, again excited

cited and augmented the malice and envy that had only lately slumbered in their breasts from not seeing her. They ought indeed to have rejoiced at the prosperity of one so deserving, as far from wishing to exult over them from the advantages she enjoyed, though her peace of mind had for some time been destroyed by their machinations, she forgave and pitied them; considering it as the greatest misfortune in the world to possess a slanderous, envious, and treacherous disposition, which she concluded must be a sufficient torment to the possessor, independent of any other punishment.

Miss Stanhope, after persuading her mother to live beyond their income to supply her profuseness, when she was overwhelmed with debts, ran off with the footman, and left Mrs. Stanhope in the greatest distress. Her creditors seized on the whole of her remaining property, and destitute, she must have perished for want of

of the common necessaries of life, had not Lady Glenholme, hearing of her affliction, with that gentle and delicate benevolence that increases the benefit, instantly relieved her; and rendered the remnant of her days comfortable, respectable and tranquil, while she blessed the benificent being she had once strove to injure irreparably.

Mrs. Stanhope's daughter, about sixteen months after her disproportionate marriage, died in an obscure village in Cumberland, (after giving birth to a little girl who lived but a few hours,) surrounded with poverty and affliction, and deserted by her husband.

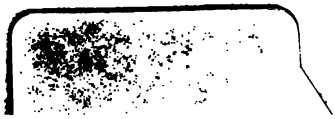
The knowledge of her unhappy and miserable destiny, though she had sought it herself, caused tears of divine compassion to flow from the eyes of Lady Glenholme; who lamented not being soon enough acquainted with her sorrows to have alleviated them, and softened the melancholy catastrophe

trophe as much as possible, to her mother, to avoid acutely wounding her maternal feelings.

Beatrice and Jacome ever remained most faithfully and ardently attached to their lady and her family, and were truly happy; blessing the hour that conducted Lady Glenholme to the Moorish palace. Their excellent mistress remembered to the latest moment of existence, the lessons of misfortune she had early received; and that to a stranger, whose memory she revered and loved, she was indebted for education and support, when thrown an outcast in her infancy, on the bounty of a poor and uninstructed peasant.

To her children she would repeatedly relate the sorrows that marked her youth, inculcating to them, and impressing on their minds by that method, the necessity of being humane and charitable. She would likewise observe, that from her narrative,

narrative, they might learn never to distrust Providence; as the keenest afflictions if unmerited, and the conscience pure, may at length be happily terminated; while from adversity, the best and most useful instructions were to be gained; and more particularly, to be humble and devoid of vanity, the unfortunate only knowing the plain language of truth, as few people will take the trouble to flatter them.

THE END.

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